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Babauta sets 2 years for CUC to solve water issues. PAGE 2

All set for NI election; CEC expects 90 pct turnout. PAGE 5

OIA nearly ready to submit report on status for alien workers in CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta said yesterday that the Office of Insular Affairs is nearing completion of its report to the U.S. Congress about the immigration status of foreign workers in the CNMI, as the May 10, 2010 deadline draws nears.

"We have consulted with the governor and the Department of Homeland Security on our report. Having accomplished that, our report now is being reviewed by the administration," Babauta told *Saipan*

See OIA on Page 4

House passes austerity bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At 6:44 last night and after over four hours of debate, the House of Representatives passed on an 11-8 vote the contentious austerity bill that will cut government work hours from the regular 80 to 70 hours per pay period, purportedly to reduce government cost by over $4.55 million for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.

See HOUSE on Page 4

HOW THEY VOTED

How members of the House of Representatives voted on House Bill 17-45 or the austerity bill:

YES

Basa, Ramon (Cov-Saipan)
Cabrera, Eli (R-Saipan)
Camacho, George (Ind-Saipan)
Demapan, Rafael (Cov-Saipan)
Iguel, Sylvester (Cov-Saipan)
Ogumoro, Felicidad (Cov-Saipan)
Palacios, Ray (Cov-Saipan)
Santos, Teresita (Ind-Rota)
Tenorio, Froilan (Cov-Saipan)
Torres, Stanley (Ind-Saipan)
Villagomez, Edmund (Cov-Saipan)

NO

Benavente, Diego (R-Saipan)
Conner, Trenton (R-Tinian)
Dela Cruz, Frank (R-Saipan)
Deleon Guerrero, Joseph (R-Saipan)
Palacios, Joseph (R-Saipan)
Sablan, Tony (R-Saipan)
Tebuteb, Ramon (R-Saipan)
Yumul, Ray (R-Saipan)

From left, Saipan Southern High School Principal Craig H. Garrison, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and visiting U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta check Saipan Southern High School's wind generator (background) and solar panels yesterday morning. Inset, Fitial signs a directive on the Executive Branch's full support of the CNMI Energy Steering Committee's mission and the administration's plan to bolster alternative energy use in the CNMI, as Babauta looks on. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hasselback resigns from OAG

» 2nd prosecutor to leave in past few days

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback, the prosecutor who handles the case against the convicted husband of special assistant for political affairs Dolores Aldan, has resigned from the Office of the Attorney General.

See HASSELBACK on Page 4

PSS on USDOE 'watch list'

» 'Governor's intervention only way to save PSS'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System is now on the U.S. Department of Education's "watch list" due to the anticipated passage of the austerity bill in the local legislature, according to a top education official.

See PSS on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you encountered any problems entering or exiting the CNMI since federal authorities took over immigration functions at the airport?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Pacific Islands Club Saipan donates $2,500 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation

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Forget about flicking your Bic when your favorite band pulls out a power ballad in concert.

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Paige Out
The odds weren't in Paige Miles' favor on "American Idol."

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Local

Babauta sets 2 years for CUC to solve water issues

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta wants to see 24-hour water service for all Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers within two years.

To make it happen, Babauta vowed his support in providing funding assistance for the completion of local water projects.

In a meeting with CUC officials yesterday, Babauta learned that only 70 percent of CUC customers enjoy 24/7 water service, prompting him to inquire with CUC what it would take to bring the remaining 30 percent of customers to full service.

Abe Utu Malae, CUC assistant executive director for operation, replied that CUC's water and wastewater engineering had estimated the total investment needed at $17 million.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has already committed $6 million this year for water projects.

In a tour of CUC's power plant, Babauta also lauded the progress and improvements made in the power generation system, which was the prime reason why the utilities corporation was placed under a state of emergency.

Like his support for water projects, Babauta also assured funding assistance for the procurement of power generation equipment for maintenance.

Now that power generation is stabilized and a substantial CIP investment of $7 million in 2009 is bearing fruit, Malae said that equipment such as bucket and utility trucks are needed to maintain the vulnerable power distribution system.

He said over 99 percent of power disruptions in the last four months are due to failures in the distribution system.

"Safe equipment that is readily available to line crews will help cut back the frequency and duration of power disruptions to customers," said Malae.

Babauta also praised CUC's plan to establish an apprenticeship program and pledged to support a multi-year training/education plan for CUC.

According to Malae, CUC has already begun the training and education program with the Pacific Linemen Training and Micronesian Water and Wastewater Training programs.

Babauta advised CUC to take advantage of military programs that could promote "riflemen to linemen" or "troops to technicians."

The apprenticeship program seeks to attract high school graduates who may be interested in utility work. The students are selected and interned at CUC. They are then sent to formal schooling at a polytechnical institute overseas.

"This building of local capacity is what makes the program so attractive," according to Malae.

Office of Insular Affairs' Jeff Schorr and Keith Aughenbaugh accompanied Babauta in his visit to CUC and the power plants.

CUC officials included executive director Tony Muña, Malae, Wallon Young, Christi Lazaro, Ken Esplin, Charles Warren, and Bruce Megarr.

Muña thanked Babauta for DOI OIA's continued support of CUC over the years. Malae followed up with a note of appreciation by naming the individuals who work hard on behalf of OIA in Washington D.C., Hawaii and Saipan, as well as the local CIP office headed by Vicky Villagomez.

Babauta was also presented the status report of all CIPs for power generation, water, wastewater and oil management.

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NMC task force backs 'removal for cause' in new contracts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All personnel and employees of the Northern Marianas College will soon be given revised employment contracts with new provisions that could possibly include mandating specific reasons for removal.

The Board of Regents' personnel committee is now reviewing a proposed policy guide submitted by the college's Human Resource Task Force during Monday's committee meeting.

Dr. John Griffin, presenting on behalf of task force president Frank Sobolewki, said the new personnel policy guide is currently in draft form and would be finalized prior to seeking comments from NMC's governance councils.

Griffin, the college's business department chairman, said one of the proposals would require NMC management to define specific causes for removal of an employee.

In drafting the new personnel policy, he said the task force was guided by existing policies in universities and colleges in the U.S. mainland.

Under NMC's existing personnel policies, employees may be terminated or their contracts not renewed with or without cause. Because of this, many employees leaving the college are unaware of the reasons for their removal.

References

Griffin said the task force was also guided by the results of a study that Frank Gibson did on existing personnel policies and the pending submission of a wage study among NMC employees, which Gibson also did. Gibson, a human resource specialist, was hired to conduct these studies.

"We're now reviewing the recommendation [on policy issues] by Mr. Gibson…and we're doing a comparative analysis between his proposal and the task force recommendation," Griffin told the committee.

Regent Paz Younis, in the same meeting, described the "policy revisit" as long overdue. She emphasized the need to meet a deadline and not prolong the "already-two-years-behind" plan.

Regent Andrew Orsini, who chairs the personnel committee, said his panel aims to complete the full revision soon.

Classes of employees

Orsini earlier said that among the important changes is the "standard base" policy used for all employees, which he described as "unfair" because there is no clear separation of personnel classification at NMC.

NMC has two classes of employees: faculty and staff. However, there are two types of employees under the faculty division: instructional and non-instructional. Staff may either be an upper management staff member or a support staff.

NMC has a total workforce of 182, with 76 in faculty and 106 in staff.

NMC faculty members have long been proposing indefinite contracts to ensure job security. It will have no expiration dates and would include provisions that they could only be terminated from service with cause.

An earlier draft of the contract was turned down by the faculty due to "unacceptable provisions" incorporated in the proposal.

This time, Orsini said, the board's priority is to make sure there will be job security and continuity of quality education on campus.

Orsini also cited the need to change some policies in hiring adjunct instructors, or part- time teachers, which under the current policy do not go through upper management review.

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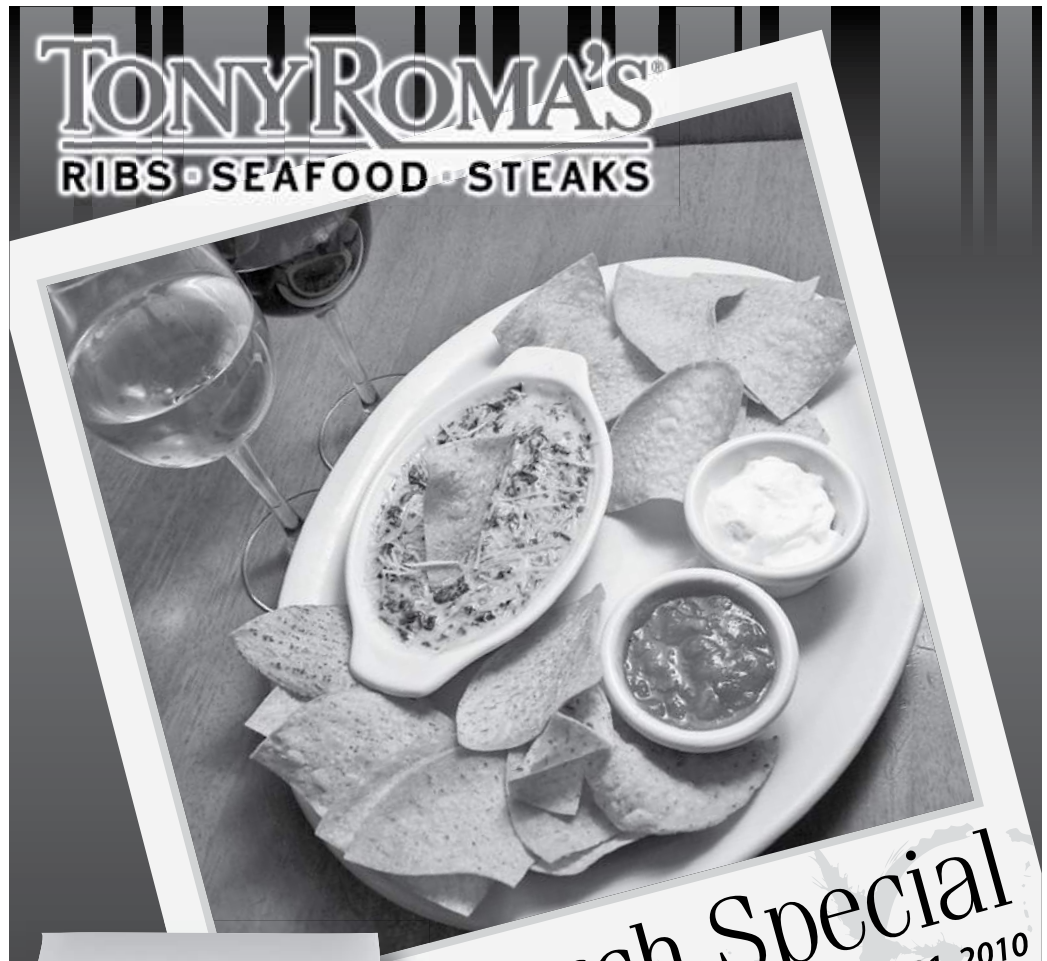
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WW2 ordnance to be detonated on Rota today

A U.S. Navy ordnance disposal team will be detonating World War II live ordnance on Rota today, from 12pm to 12:30pm.

The detonation will be held at the As Matmos Cliff on the island of Rota.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public, especially commercial pilots, tour operators, residents, farmers, tourists, bikers, joggers and fishermen, to stay away at least 1.5 mile away from the area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the Saipan Department of Public Safety at 664-9000/9001, Rota Department of Public Safety at 532-0911, Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451, EMO Rota at 532 4700 or the EMO at 322-9529/9528. ***(EMO)***

PSS

From Page 1

In a message relayed to the Fiscal and Personnel Affairs Committee yesterday, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the U.S. Education Department is closely watching PSS as a result of "issues" it is facing in its local appropriation.

Sablan is off-island, attending a series of meetings with U.S. education officials.

Committee chair Herman T. Guerrero said the U.S. Education Department is concerned about PSS' ability to comply with rules governing the use of federal funds.

PSS gets millions of federal assistance from the USDOE every year. The continuity of these grants depends on how the system performs and complies with federal standards and requirements. One of the rules requires PSS to get at least 22.73 percent share in the overall local government budget. PSS will not meet this mandate under the austerity bill now pending at the Legislature.

"They are closely monitoring PSS now because this is a matter of compliance with federal requirements. I hope the Legislature and the governor realize the serious implications this will bring to the school system. USDOE can sanction us. …If they find out we're not in compliance with standards, they can turn around and get the money back from us," Guerrero explained.

He said the only hope now for PSS is the governor, if he is given the flexibility to exercise some authority under the budget bill.

"The Legislature is not listening to us…and it seems that they have made up their mind. I hope they have an option to provide us in terms of complying with the maintenance effort agreement," he said.

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio said the austerity bill will bring "disruptions and confusions" once passed.

What PSS is asking the Legislature, Guerrero said, is to give PSS the flexibility to implement its own cost-cutting measures, rather than automatically including teachers and PSS personnel in the work hour reduction outlined in the bill.

House Bill 17-45 proposes an across-the-board work hour reduction of 10 hours biweekly by cutting an hour each day off the work hours of employees, including public school teachers.

If this happens, PSS will not only incur financial and legal damage in the contracts of teachers and vendors, but this would decrease the instructional time for Commonwealth students, PSS officials said.

At present, classes take place from 7:30am to 2:30pm, Mondays to Fridays. Under the proposed measure, classes would end at 1:30pm.

"That's why we have the Board of Education working with the commissioner. Let us do it [cost-cutting] and not the Legislature. We can live within our means, just provide us the flexibility to identify the areas that we need to cut and streamline," he said.

Board member Tanya King, in yesterday's committee meeting, also emphasized that "PSS is failing miserably because of the decrease in instructional hours."

Students in the U.S. mainland usually undergo 220 hours of instruction every year. Reducing the work hours of teachers will seriously impact student learning, PSS officials said.

PSS officials and the board plan to seek the administration's support on the budget measure.

HASSELBACK

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune learned from sources at the OAG that Hasselback tendered his resignation to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham on Friday.

Buckingham confirmed Hasselback's resignation in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last night. He said he received Hasselback's e-mail with the title "My Resignation."

When asked if he accepted the resignation, Buckingham said people who serve the Commonwealth as prosecutors have significant authority and discretion.

"If a person chooses to resign it is essential for me and the chief prosecutor to respect that decision," the AG said.

Hasselback is the second prosecutor to resign from the OAG Criminal Division since the appointment of former Rep. Rosemond Santos as chief prosecutor. Katie Busenkell also recently resigned.

Last Tuesday, Hasselback asked the Superior Court—reportedly at the behest of Santos—to withdraw his earlier motion to set aside the plea agreement in the case against Vicente T. Aldan.

Hasselback told the court that his supervisor instructed him to withdraw the motion. He said he does not know why Santos asked him to withdraw the motion since he was not involved in the decision-making.

Vicente T. Aldan, husband of former Corrections commissioner Dolores Aldan, had been convicted in November 2009 of assaulting his former wife in July 2009 on Tinian. His conviction was based on a plea bargain he made, and contained several requirements, including the surrender of a firearm.

Hasselback later found out that Aldan has failed to surrender the firearm, prompting him to ask the court to revoke the plea agreement and allow the government to re-file the charging information in the case. He later withdrew the motion at the instruction of Santos.

HOUSE

From Page 1

"I don't want to see anyone laid off because we didn't pass this. Let's move on," said House Ways and Means Committee chair Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan), author of House Bill 17-45, minutes before the voting.

Supporters of the bill said they'd rather see work hours cut than terminate or lay off workers to address the government's revised projected revenue from $150 million to $137 million.

Those who opposed the bill, led by House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) and most Republicans, said the measure will not help solve the government's financial crisis but worsen it, saying it will lead to longer lines for food stamps because more people will have lower salaries, especially those who are earning only $11,000 to $13,000 a year.

Of the 19 members present, seven Covenant Party members, three independents, and one Republican voted "yes," while eight Republicans voted "no." ***(See table on how House members voted).***

One of the 20 members of the House was on excused absence: Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrrero (Ind-Saipan).

Critics maintained that the better solution would be for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to further cut the budget allocation to 12.5 percent from 7.25 percent, give flexibility to each agency to cut their own costs rather than forcing pay cuts, and by enforcing revenue collection laws.

The pleas and requests from a large crowd of mostly parents, students, teachers and school administrators from Rota, Tinian and Saipan not to pass the austerity bill failed to sway the votes in their favor.

"Please find it in your heart not to pass this bill for the sake of our children," said one of the parents who stood up to address the lawmakers.

Charlie Kenty, head of the Public School System's Human Resource Office, said it does not make sense that the House wants to save $3 million to $4 million in funds, and at the same time allow PSS to risk losing over $47 million in federal funds should the austerity bill becomes law.

PSS financial consultant Ed Tenorio warned that if PSS fails to meet the "Maintenance of Effort" requirement by the U.S. Department of Education, the school system risks losing federal money.

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said the USDOE has been keeping an eye on PSS because of the austerity bill.

"I'm in disbelief and disappointed," Blanco-Maratita told *Saipan Tribune* after the passage of the bill.

House members took turns justifying their support or opposition to the bill.

After over four hours of debate, discussion and making amendments to Basa's 11-page bill, House Floor Leader George N. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) made a motion to pass on first and final reading H.B. 17-45 at 6:43pm. In just a minute, the bill passed the House.

The bill now goes to the nine-member Senate.

Blanco-Maratita said PSS, teachers, parents and students will ask senators not to pass the bill.

"We are going to try to urge the senators not to pass it and get them to understand the effect this will have on PSS and the education of our children," she said.

Blanco-Maratita, other school officials and parents patiently watched the House session which was still ongoing at 7pm. Officials from other agencies, including Commonwealth Supreme Court Clerk of Court and general counsel for the judiciary Daniel Stafford and Henry Hofschneider from Northern Marianas College, were also at the House chamber.

Under the austerity bill, the regular eight-hour government workday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, will be reduced to seven hours, or from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

This means government work hours will become 70 hours per pay period across-the-board, from the regular 80 hours.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) reiterated what Basa earlier said—that passing the austerity bill will prevent not only a reduction in force, but will also forestall payless paydays projected to start as early as April 23, 2010, among other things.

The bill also encourages members of the Legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, justices, and judges—who have constitutionally protected salaries—to waive 12.5 percent of their salaries and donate them to the general fund. The 12.5 percent is equivalent to 10 hours of work per pay period.

An earlier austerity bill was killed when the committee report recommending its passage was filed. At the time, parents and educators from Rota, Tinian and Saipan also trooped to the House session and urged lawmakers not to pass the bill.

OIA

From Page 1

Tribune in an interview at the Saipan Southern High School in Koblerville yesterday morning.

Babauta could not say at this time what status OIA is recommending to the U.S. Congress.

"It would be too early for me to say what the recommendations will be without having it cleared by the administration," he added.

This was discussed during Babauta's meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Capital Hill yesterday.

"I informed the governor that we're very near to completing our report, in submitting recommendations to Congress. …Right now, it's going through the process in…the administration side. Once that process is completed, then we will send it to Congress," said Babauta.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law requires the Department of the Interior secretary, in consultation with the Homeland Security secretary and the CNMI governor, to recommend to the U.S. Congress—as the Interior secretary deems appropriate—a permanent immigration status for guest workers legally residing in the CNMI, by May 10, 2010.

Babauta said he has consulted with Fitial on some of the aspects of the report and is aware of some of Fitial's public statements on the issue. He said he has also listened to guest workers, the business community and other sectors of the community.

Nonresident worker groups and their supporters have been asking for lawful permanent resident status or "green cards" for long-time foreign workers and others with relatives who are U.S. or Freely Associated States citizens in the CNMI.

In December, Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said in a news briefing that the Fitial administration won't oppose the federal government if it decided to grant "green cards" to nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Fitial reiterated, though, that CNMI Public Law 3-66, which he authored when he was a member of the 3rd Legislature, allows foreign workers to come here as a "privilege" only—if and when resident workers are not available.

"There's nothing in that law that would even suggest that nonresident workers should be granted preferred immigration status," the governor had said.

But Babauta said yesterday: "I think the governor has made a couple of recommendations, not knowing what the recommendations of the Department of the Interior will be."

Babauta also reiterated yesterday his support of Federal Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown, who has said that CNMI Department of Labor lost its authority to revoke umbrella permits when the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

But just on Monday, Fitial signed into law an omnibus immigration bill that asserts CNMI control over nonresident workers.

Babauta was at the Saipan Southern High School yesterday to visit the school's successful wind generator and solar panel projects. He also visited the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant. Today, Babauta is expected to visit the Tinian Health Center and announce a grant of "at least $300,000" to the center for medical equipment.

This is his second visit to the CNMI since being confirmed by the U.S. Senate last year.

All set for NI election; CEC expects 90 pct turnout

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is all set for the special election for Northern Islands mayor on Saturday.

With 131 registered voters, Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero is optimistic that 90 percent of voters will turn out on election day.

The voting activity will take place at the CEC office in Susupe from 8am to 6pm.

Saipan Tribune learned that only three individuals have asked the commission for absentee ballots.

As of yesterday, Guerrero said, the commission has no plans of conducting the special poll in the Northern Islands itself based on information that no one is residing there now.

The agency spent $11,495.90 each time it hired a helicopter to bring personnel to the Northern Islands for last year's general election.

In Saturday's election, Covenant Party's Ramona Rebuenog will face off with independent candidate Tobias Aldan—the same candidates for the position during the election held in November last year.

It will be recalled that Rebuenog sued the Election Commission and Aldan after the election due to alleged illegal votes cast in the polls. She claimed she had the largest number of legal votes cast and asked the trial court to declare her the mayor of the Northern Islands. She won that case.

Aldan, however, appealed to the Supreme Court, which overturned the trial court ruling and ordered the Election Commission to conduct a new election for the Northern Islands.

Guerrero said four commission staff will handle the special election, along with representatives each from the Office of the Public Auditor and Attorney General's Office. Based on law, an independent candidate is allowed to have one representative while party candidates are allowed two.

Police officers have also been assigned to man the polling station.

Guerrero expects the whole process to be completed by 7pm Saturday. Counting and certification would be conducted soon after the voting.

The commission printed 160 ballots and will spend an estimated $20,000 for the entire process.

In the official ballot, Aldan got the left side of the ballot while Rebuenog's name will appear on the right side.

Whoever wins between Aldan and Rebuenog will serve a term of five years.

Authorities seize 114 marijuana plants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities seized 114 marijuana plants in the vicinity of an abandoned house in Kagman I Monday afternoon.

Acting on a tip from a confidential source, members of the DPS and Customs Joint Drug Enforcement Task Force, along with Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives, proceeded to the abandoned two-story house at 1:51pm, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David yesterday.

David said the officers found 114 marijuana plants ranging from seedlings to four feet in height.

He said crime scene investigators were summoned to the area where they took pictures and uprooted the marijuana plants.

"We don't know the owner of the house. The case is still under investigation," the DPS spokesman told *Saipan Tribune*.

Last week, the same group of officers arrested former lawmaker Pedro P. Castro and a father and son in separate raids at a farm in Marpi and a residence in As Matuis for allegedly cultivating a total of 186 marijuana plants.

Castro was also allegedly found in possession of a .410 shotgun.

The department has intensified its campaign against illegal drugs with the recent appointment of CNMI range master Ambrosio Ogumoro as DPS deputy commissioner.

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DPS reactivates police visibility program in Garapan, Kagman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will reactivate today, Friday, its visibility program by assigning police officers and firefighters to the Koban and Kagman substations to ensure the safety of tourists and residents.

DPS spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that police and firefighters will man the Koban Substation in western Garapan daily, from 6pm to 3am.

David said the Kagman Community Center, which was closed several years ago due to the lack of manpower, will be reactivated and is expected to be manned 24 hours daily.

The DPS spokesman said the department wants to maintain and enforce the safety of the local residents and tourists in the Garapan area.

He said police presence will help reduce any potential crimes in western Garapan and lessen police's response time to accidents or any untoward incidents.

"Fire personnel will be assisting with enforcing public safety and attending to medical emergencies within the vicinities," David said.

In addition, Fire personnel will be conducting inspections of commercial establishments that are open after 6pm to ensure that they are complying with the CNMI Fire Safety Code, Public Law 11-56.

"DPS is confident that placing police officers in this area will not only deter criminals, but it will also create a positive image in the tourist-oriented community, clear the streets of loiterers allegedly involved in prostitution, and reduce the number of purse-snatching and theft incidents that are commonly known to plague the Garapan district," David said.

As for the Kagman Substation, David said they are certain the community's concerns will be better addressed by increasing the presence of police officers.

He added that police visibility will reduce response times to incidents and decrease criminal activities in Kagman.

A fatal assault on a jobless man and the reported kidnapping of a girl recently happened in Kagman. Many burglary cases have also occurred in the area in the past few years.

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Stop order on SVES aqua project lifted

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After more than a month's delay, construction work on the aquaculture project at San Vicente Elementary School is back in full swing after Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan lifted the stop order she issued on Feb. 4.

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero, who also chairs the board's Fiscal and Personnel Committee, confirmed this after a meeting yesterday.

Guerrero said the system's CIP office, which reviewed the project, recommended pursuing the project.

Guerrero's committee, along with the legal counsel's review, determined that the project would have no legal implications on the system and the board.

Issues relating to the ownership of the property once it is built were also clarified, he said.

"Now that issues have been resolved on the project, CIP recommended to the committee to instruct the commissioner to go ahead and approve it," Guerrero said.

PSS and the board, he said, only want to ensure that all classroom instructions related to the project are aligned with the system's benchmarks and standards on science.

PSS, he said, also approved the request to hire a teacher aide to help with the project.

Guerrero said the project's approval was also in consideration of the project manager's commitment that everything will be coordinated with the system and the board.

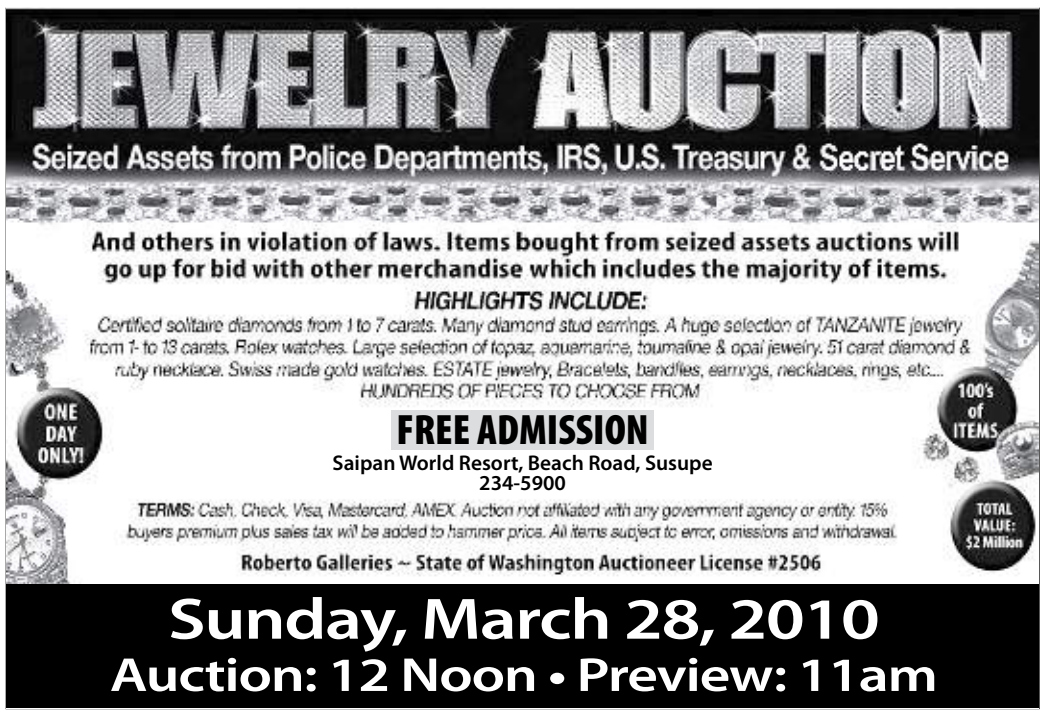
"When you do a project like this, we're allowing other people to come inside the campus. And because we're liable to all our students and teachers, we want to ensure their safety and security," Guerrero said, citing the benefits it could bring to San Vicente students.

The project was stopped on Feb. 4 after the commissioner and the board said they were never made aware of it and documents were lost during the term of the previous CIP officer.

The project was initiated and approved during the time of former Education commissioner Dr. David Borja. It already has a valid construction permit from the Department of Public Works.

Valrick Welch, aquaculture science project manager, earlier disclosed that the project was initiated in 1997, with funding from the National Science Foundation and a donation from the Bank of Hawaii.

Due to typhoon damage, the aquaculture area became unsafe for student activities and needed funding to restore it. In 2008, a request for ANA funding to renovate and restore the facility was approved.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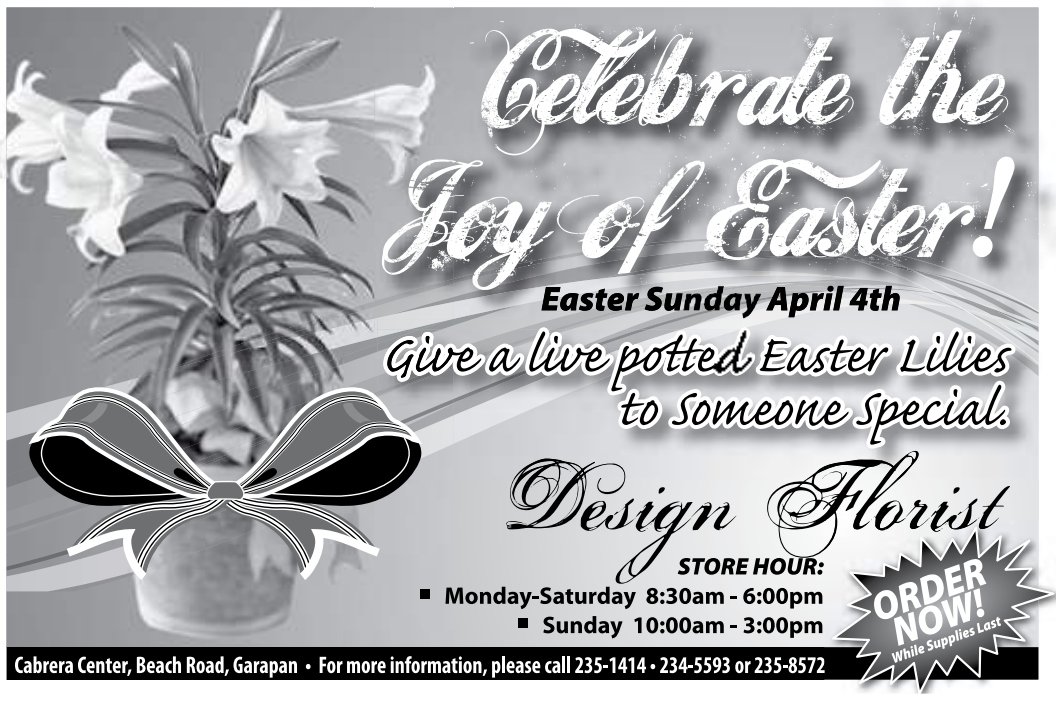
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DPL suspends all applications for new beach concessionaires

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has suspended all new applications for beach front concessionaires, especially near the properties of beachfront hotels and resorts, due to overcrowding.

At the same time, the "aggressive behaviors of some of the concessionaires have been known to intrude onto hotel properties," said DPL Secretary Oscar Babauta.

With all the competition in these concentrated areas, there have even been instances where concessionaires argue with each other over a potential customer's business, he said.

According to the secretary, the hotels do not appreciate it when concessionaires walk into their property and bother the tourists.

Babauta added that "tourists are unnecessarily being subjected to constant badgering."

Currently there are 19 permitted beach front concessionaires. DPL will use a reduction by attrition method to gradually wear down the number of concessionaires.

Reduction by attrition means that when a business retires, quits, or chooses not to renew, their permit will expire and they will be cut from the list of current concessionaires. In the meantime, no more new permits will be added until DPL assesses the situation and decides to lift the temporary suspension.

"This is a fair and simple way to reduce the over-extended numbers [of concessionaires] near the hotel areas," said Babauta.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 26, 1999

CUC inhibits from stalled sewer project
A much-delayed sewer line construction in southern Saipan seems to remain in limbo as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is taking its hands off the financial dilemma that has bogged down the project for nearly a year. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez yesterday said they will not pitch in to help the Commonwealth Ports Authority settle the claims of Pacific Drilling Ltd., the project's contractor. He insisted CPA's request for assistance is outside the memorandum of agreement forged late last year between the two government agencies which provides a 70-30 share of the costs with CUC getting the larger financial obligation.

Managaha could be up for grabs again
The Procurement and Supply Division has pressed the Office of the Public Auditor to deny an appeal by a locally-owned corporation seeking to stop the re-solicitation of proposals for the new franchise holder of a popular tourist resort. Division director Herman S. Sablan recently wrote to OPA requesting the latter to uphold a previous decision that it has no jurisdiction over plans by the Board of Public Lands to rebid the development of Managaha Island following the approval of new law that gives preferential treatment to local bidders. The Marianas Marine Management Inc. had sought to block the issuance of a new request for proposals on grounds that it would constitute violation of CNMI's procurement regulations.

March 26, 2001

Borja wants excise tax relaxed
Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jesse Borja promised to lift excise taxes on food items and other goods that are deemed necessities if he and his running mate, Representative Brigid Ichihara, are voted into office. "As soon as we are in office, we will examine the excise tax law to see how we can get rid of such tax on certain items," Mr. Borja said. The former lieutenant governor also wants to relax excise taxes on materials and supplies used in building homes. He asserted that once excise taxes are revoked in such items and goods, people will be better positioned to buy more food and build more affordable homes.

NMIRF to rule on retirement allotment of ex-CPA official
The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund is set to decide on the case of a former Commonwealth Ports Authority official whose unused compensatory time was allegedly converted to sick leave to pad his retirement benefits. The decision will come after months of deliberations on the case. Retirement Fund officials convened again Friday to discuss measures that will be meted out on the case of former CPA Executive Director Carlos A. Shoda. Fund Board Chair Vicente Camacho disclosed members of the NMIRF Board of Directors are now waiting for the transcript of meetings where the former CPA official's case was discussed.

March 26, 2002

Quarter coins commemorating insular areas
Circulating quarter dollar coins that commemorate all the insular areas of the United States, including the CNMI? If plans do not miscarry, this could become a possibility in 2009, after New York Reps. Peter T. King and Carolyn B. Maloney introduced a measure last week at the U.S. House of Representatives providing for such a coin. House Resolution 4005, to be known as District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act, has been referred to the House Financial Services Committee. As envisioned in the proposed bill, the U.S. government will redesign and issue circulating quarter coins in 2009 that will commemorate the District of Columbia and each of the territories-the Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Torres cites alternative funding source for PSS
The House of Representatives adopted Thursday a resolution endorsing the application of the Public School System for a share in the $400 million federal loan available through the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds of the U.S. Department of Education. The lower chamber adopted House Resolution 13-16 to redress the declining financial resources of the CNMI and shore up the fiscal position of the PSS. Rep. William S. Torres, the resolution's author, said the total QZAB allocations for the CNMI is $1.4 million.

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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

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EDITORIAL

A sliver of progress in Myanmar

The Obama administration's strategy of engaging with rogue regimes may have paid off in a small way in Myanmar. The release from prison of a pro-democracy activist doesn't signal that democracy is coming to that oppressed nation, but it does argue for continued contact to keep pressing for desperately needed change.

Naturalized American citizen Nyi Nyi Aung was arrested on spurious charges, sentenced after an unfair trial and mistreated in prison, according to Human Rights Watch. Myanmar's military junta pardoned and deported him last week in what it said was deference to its "bilateral friendship with the United States" and a request by the State Department.

Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is planning its first parliamentary and local elections in two decades. Opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has spent 14 of those years under house arrest, one of about 2,200 political prisoners in the country, according to Amnesty International.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won the 1990 general election with a majority of seats in parliament, but was never allowed to take power. To ensure that it never does, the junta has rewritten the nation's constitution and imposed a new election law. Among the changes: Anyone married to a foreigner is disqualified from running for public office. (Suu Kyi is the widow of Briton Michael Aris.)

Political prisoners are also disqualified, military control of a bloc of legislative seats and key ministries is guaranteed, and the regime is officially annulling the 1990 election results. Suu Kyi's party is suing the government in response.

The National League for Democracy is right that none of this bodes well for a free and fair vote, and it is understandably concerned that opposition participation in such an election would only serve to legitimize a junta that does not intend to relinquish power. Yet the junta is taking steps that could inadvertently lead to change. It is trying to broaden the private sector—if only to benefit its cronies—and improve economic conditions in a country where most live in dire poverty. The new constitution establishes a presidential system of government with a bicameral legislature and 14 regional governments and assemblies.

While maintaining targeted economic sanctions against Myanmar, the United States should use its new, if limited, influence to push for a credible electoral process with the freedom and participation of Suu Kyi and other prisoners of conscience. Representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should be allowed to monitor the vote. The door has opened a crack. The election is an opportunity to try to pry it open further.

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What every parent should know about antibiotics

■ And a few tips why mom needn't panic when her child has a cold

By BILL WEISS, PA-C
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It's three in the morning. Your child has a 102º fever. She's been crying for two hours. You rush your child to the Emergency Department. You inform the doctor that your child has had a fever for three days, a cough and runny nose, and hasn't been eating. You're in a panic. Just yesterday, your mother-in-law said your child "might have pneumonia" and needs antibiotics. The doctor checks your child and tells you, "It's OK. She just has a virus" and all that is needed is supportive care, TLC, and maybe some Tylenol or ibuprofen if the child is uncomfortable. "Wait," you cry. "Aren't you going to give her some antibiotics? She's sick!" Just then, the nurse rushes in and tells the doctor that he's needed in the trauma room. He whips out his prescription pad and scrawls a prescription for amoxicillin, and hurries away toward his next patient. As you walk away, you're satisfied because you have a prescription for antibiotics. As the doctor walks away, he rolls his eyes upward and thinks "another panicky mother!"

So...what just happened? Who's right? What are the facts?

The facts—based on solid evidence from numerous studies—demonstrate the following:

■ Most illnesses suffered by children are viruses.

■ Antibiotics are *only* helpful for *bacterial* infections.

■ Overuse or inappropriate use of antibiotics is potentially harmful for adults and even *more* harmful for children

■ Having a "cold" is *good* for children, as is having a fever and "not eating" for several days. (I'll explain this later)

■ Among 4,000 children who have a "common cold", only *one* would benefit from antibiotics (That's a whole lot of children getting unneeded medication. We'll see later why this is *bad* medical practice)

■ Physicians will prescribe antibiotics 65 percent of the time to children if perceived by the physician that the parents want the antibiotics, *whether or not the antibiotics are needed.* If not requested by a parent, only 12 percent of children will be prescribed antibiotics.

■ Since antibiotics were first discovered and used in the 1940s, almost every type of bacteria has become stronger and more resistant to antibiotics; this is a direct result of overuse of antibiotics or—more appropriately—*using them when they are not needed.*

■ *Resistant* bacteria can cause serious health problems (including death) to you and your family.

■ According to the Center for Disease Control, antibiotic resistance is considered one of the most pressing and serious worldwide public health problems today.

Now, let's look more closely at some of the above points.

How, you ask, could one possibly state that it's a *good thing* when my child is sick? The answer is simple: There are hundreds of different viruses that exist and with which your child comes in contact; Mother Nature uses that opportunity when your child becomes ill with a virus to strengthen your child's immune system. It's like taking the immune system to the gym. Kids may get sick four or five times a year while their immune system is becoming more formidable. By the time they reach adulthood, their immune system is tough enough to fight off most viruses. This process has been going on in humans for hundreds of thousands of years. Efforts to hinder this process would lead to a significantly weakened immune system. Providing there are no complications, be glad your child is ill.

And fever? Parents often present to the clinic with the complaint that their child "has a fever." We have been brought up to think that fevers are "bad." The fact is: fevers turn on the body's immune system and help to overcome the virus. A child can easily sustain a fever of 104° without harm. The prevailing advice today is: only bring down a fever if your child is uncomfortable. The higher the fever does not relate to how serious is your child's illness. In turning on the immune system to combat the same virus, one child's fever may be 101°, while another one's fever is 104°. It's normal for a fever to worsen at night, and for fevers to wax and wane during the course of an illness. And remember: antibiotics do not bring down a fever.

Another concern parents have is that their child is *not eating* when they are ill. Most cultures feel that a child must eat to obtain the proper nourishment to fight the illness. The fact is: it takes a lot of energy for the system to effectively fight off a virus (that's why you feel weak and tired when you're ill); it also takes a lot of energy to digest food (that's why you feel lazy after a big meal). Mother Nature, in her infinite wisdom, wants to utilize all available energy to fight the infection, not to "waste" energy in digesting food. All humans have plenty of "stores of food" specifically designed to be utilized during times of illness (think of "baby fat"). This is food that is easily converted to nourish the ill child *without* taking from the necessary energy used in defending the child's body from the attacking virus. The bottom line: If your child is ill and not eating anything, don't feel compelled to make him or her eat. Really, all they need are fluids (and water is generally sufficient).

Most illnesses are viral. The facts: colds, bronchitis, sore throats (except *strep throat*), most ear infections, stomach infections, influenza, and all the usual illnesses children acquire, are nearly always viral in nature. Yes, on occasion a child may become ill with a bacterial infection—but this is relatively rare (and we will discuss

See PARENT on Page 14

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's an ETF?

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Saipan may be isolated, but it's not disconnected from financial markets. A modern breed of investment vehicles called Exchange Traded Funds means that anyone can sit on the beach with their netbook computer, sipping a cold one, while conveniently speculating in commodities, foreign exchange, stock indexes (S&P 500, for example), or just about anything else that suits their fancy.

I say "conveniently" because there are, of course, more traditional ways to mess with this stuff, such as futures and options and such, but ETFs are a lot easier for the average guy to understand and deal with.

ETFs cover a variety of realms, but what interests me the most are commodity and foreign exchange ETFs, which are my context today. You can buy and sell shares in an ETF just like you buy or sell shares in a stock. So, this is an easy way to speculate in oil, gold, wheat and other yummies, yen, euro, and so on.

Some ETFs are leveraged, providing a multiple of the price moves of the underlying commodity (a multiple of 2.0 is common, though this stuff is a bit inexact because of the mechanics of the process). And some are inverse, providing a way to short (bet on a price decline) in the underlying commodity. And, yeah, you can combine this stuff and come up with a leveraged inverse ETF as well, which sounds esoteric but they are as common as coconuts on Micro beach.

I'll give you an example. Think that oil prices are going to go up? Then you can buy an ETF that is designed to mirror the percentage change: It will go up by 10 percent if oil prices go up by 10 percent. Or, you can buy an ETF that will double the movements, so that you'd make 20 percent from a 10 point increase in oil prices, which carries the reciprocal risk of losing 20 percent if prices fall by 10 percent.

But what if you think that oil prices are going to go down, instead of up? The mechanisms are the same. You simply buy shares in an inverse ETF, which is to say, you use a specific ETF to take a short position. (Since a short position is betting on a price fall, it won't surprise you that a long position is betting on a price rise.)

I will note that the above examples can be muddied by some transactional complexities, so these neat percentages I used for examples might not work out so perfectly in reality. Furthermore, and more significantly, there is a timing and pricing issue in futures markets called "contango" that can bleed an ETF of money even if the fund was on the right side of the market. This is a sticky issue in some ETFs, so anyone interested in it has to do their homework.

Of the last three people I explained contango to, none understood my explanation, so I'm on strike.

Still, it's exciting stuff. For those of us who recall the mutual fund boom of the 1980s, the ETF boom, which has been rolling for a few years now, has the same feel.

Back in the old days, in the commodities and forex realms, it used to take a little bit of effort to be able to trade. The average guy reading the sports section at Happy Hour probably wasn't speculating in commodities or forex, though he always had mutual funds and insisted on telling you all about them. That's just so last century.

But these days, thanks to ETFs, even your waitress just might be speculating in commodities or, well, something equally as exotic. Whether it's a good idea for your waitress to really do that isn't my call. I'm just saying that the ability is there now, and easily accessible, and as close as anyone's keyboard.

I should be careful with this word "speculating," since that means to take risk to try to make a profit. I suppose its possible to also use some ETFs to counter-balance other positions, in order to make a hedge and therefore avoid risk, but I haven't given this much thought.

But I have thought about this: The world has come a long, long way since I first saw Saipan. Makes me feel old. Back then, I felt like I was on the sidelines, sort of unable to participate in the markets. But nowadays, As Lito is as connected to the markets as Manhattan is.

Open letter to the citizens of the Commonwealth

By JACINTA M. KAIPAT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jacinta M. Kaipat is a former CNMI representative and the current deputy Labor secretary.

I oppose the federal ombudsman's interference in local political affairs, and I oppose her efforts to de-stabilize the Commonwealth's workforce at a time when our economy most needs stability and certainty. I have explained my reasons to the Legislature in urging the enactment of PL 17-1, the bill that conformed our Code to federalization of immigration and deportation, which the ombudsman tried unsuccessfully to derail. I now want to explain these reasons to our citizens.

The serious problems with the ombudsman's positions can be explained by reference to some basic questions:

1. Should foreign workers be able to use the umbrella permit issued to them by the Department of Labor to "take any job" as the ombudsman recommends?

My answer to this proposition is an emphatic "no." I have two reasons for this.

First, when a foreign worker can "take any job," the most immediate effect is to cut out our qualified citizens from the opportunity to compete for that job. That should not happen. We did not invite foreign workers to the Commonwealth to squeeze our citizens out of jobs. We invited them to augment our workforce as necessary.

Second, the ombudsman's position is contrary to PL 110-229, the federalization law, which is intended to increase citizen employment in the Commonwealth. As the Senate Committee explained in its report: "Section 102(a) expresses Congressional intent to . . . [extend] the INA with special provisions for . . . providing *opportunities for locals to work*." The law directs the Secretary of the Interior *"to assist employers in the Commonwealth in securing employees* first *from among citizens and nationals resident in the Commonwealth and, if an adequate number of such [local citizen] workers are not available, from among legal permanent residents, including lawfully admissible citizens of the freely associated states."* Emphasis added. The ombudsman's efforts are devoted exclusively to putting foreign workers ahead of U.S. citizens in the employment queue. She should not be doing that. It is contrary to the express intent of the law.

2. Should foreign workers be given special assistance to remain in their existing jobs through renewals that are not authorized by the Department of Labor?

My answer to this proposition is "absolutely not."

Every renewal of a contract is an opportunity for a qualified citizen to compete for the job. That is the intent of our law. By advocating renewals without any opportunity for citizens to compete – backed by a real job advertisement program and enforcement capability – the federal ombudsman is stealing jobs from our people.

3. Should foreign workers be allowed to remain in the Commonwealth until November 2011 regardless of whether they violate Commonwealth law or the conditions of their permits? The ombudsman says the Commonwealth cannot revoke the permits it granted.

I say that the ombudsman's position is both bad law and bad public policy. I have four reasons for this.

First, every foreign worker who has an umbrella permit was required to appear personally, present sufficient identification, and sign a contractual agreement to abide by Commonwealth law. The umbrella permit specifically provides: *"I, the person to whom this permit is issued as named and identified above, agree to the permit conditions set out above and acknowledge as a condition of the issuance of this permit allowing my employment in the Commonwealth that every aspect of the issuance, modification, or termination of this permit is governed by Commonwealth law and is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Labor."*

Like everyone else, foreign workers are to be held to their contractual agreements. If any worker had refused to agree to the terms on which the umbrella permit was issued, we would not have given out the permit. The federal ombudsman is, in effect, saying to foreign workers that it is okay to break the contract that you entered into. That is not right.

Second, every year a few foreign workers commit serious crimes and are convicted. I say we can revoke the umbrella permit of anyone who commits a crime. We are not required to tolerate criminal behavior and allow those people to have the advantages of the guest worker program.

Third, some aliens lied on their applications for their umbrella permits. They were never entitled to an umbrella permit. A permit that was issued based on representations that were not true can be revoked, and a person who deliberately made a false statement to a Commonwealth official has violated Commonwealth law. There is no reason that these people should be allowed to keep their permits in force.

Fourth, unemployed workers can be a significant burden on the Commonwealth. We have set out conditions in the umbrella permit under which we will take the risk of allowing an unemployed worker to remain for enough time to find a job – the worker has to agree to meet certain conditions during the time he or she is unemployed and they have to report back to the Department on the report-back date in the permit so we can assess the situation. We have not agreed to take that risk without careful consideration with respect to anyone who has an umbrella permit. If a worker has not found employment for six months, the likelihood of locating employment in the future is very low, and we are not required to allow that person to keep a permit over the long term.

4. Does federal law take the place of all of the Commonwealth's labor laws?

The Attorney General and the Special Counsel to the Governor have both answered this question in legal terms. The ombudsman is wrong. Federal law and Commonwealth law operate in parallel. There are important practical points to be made here.

First, Commonwealth law requires that employers pay medical expenses of foreign workers. This is a very important protection for Commonwealth citizens. If foreign workers can flood CHC with unpaid bills by accepting treatment and then just walking away from the bills because they do not have money to pay, then all our citizens suffer. The hospital will not have the funds to provide quality care for citizens. It is struggling now. The added burden of more unpaid bills would cause a serious decline in its capability. We are required by federal law to take aliens into the hospital. We need the protection of requiring employers to pay these bills. We are entitled to have that protection through our Commonwealth laws. There is no such protection under federal law.

Second, Commonwealth law requires bonding of an employer's obligations for wages, medical expenses, and repatriation tickets. The federal system has no such protection. If there were no bonds, then there would be no alternative source to tap when employers fail to pay and most court cases would be fruitless. This is particularly true when an employer is a foreign-operated company that can just leave the Commonwealth and strand workers who have no recourse but to rely on Commonwealth benefits programs.

Third, Commonwealth law requires health examinations. Every year, a few foreign workers turn up with drug-resistant tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. The health exams catch these diseases, which can spread easily in a small island community and can cause very significant costs to the Commonwealth's health care system. Under federal law, there is no such protection for our citizens.

Fourth, Commonwealth law allows employment disputes involving foreign workers to be resolved in administrative hearings which are relatively quick and inexpensive. Under the federal system, there is no administrative dispute resolution system. The federal system puts all these disputes into state courts where the burden is on the other users of the court system and the taxpayers of the jurisdiction who have to pay for the court system. In the Commonwealth, if the courts had to adjudicate the several hundred employment disputes involving foreign workers each year, other cases involving the rights of our citizens would have to wait longer and longer to be resolved and our court system would be more expensive to operate.

The Commonwealth government has very important interests at stake in the labor field. We will continue to insist that our citizens not be walled out of employment opportunities by federal labor initiatives. And we will prosecute where necessary to ensure that our taxpayers do not have additional burdens thrust upon them as a result of the transition program. There is no need for this to happen. Our laws have now been conformed to U.S. immigration requirements, and all references to immigration and deportation have been removed. We look forward to mutually supportive work with the Department of Homeland Security on these matters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Sunny	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

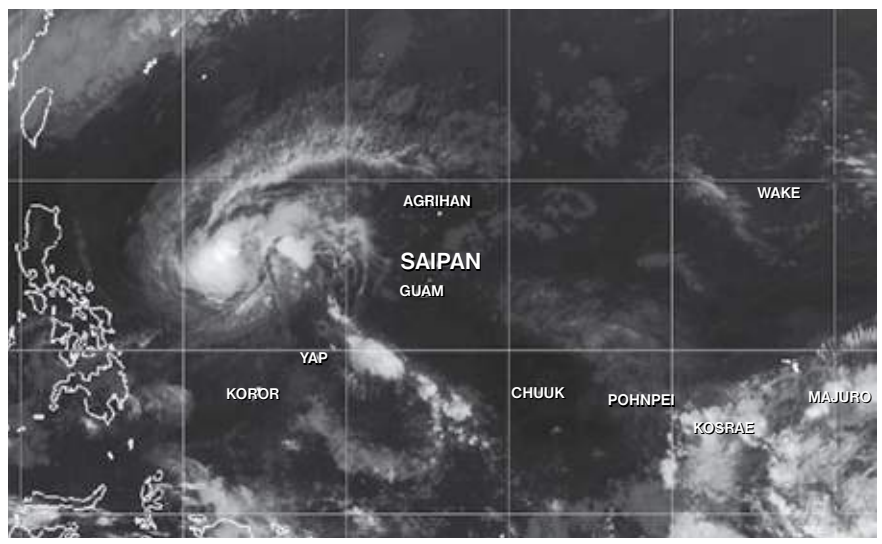
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼61
Beijing	Sunny	▲57	▼32
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲71	▼62
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼69
London	Showers	▲52	▼43
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼74
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲82	▼61
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼66
New York	Showers	▲46	▼28
Osaka	Cloudy	▲48	▼33
Paris	Thunderstorms	▲51	▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲54	▼34
Rome	Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Salem	Showers	▲54	▼41
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼45
Seoul	Sunny	▲41	▼31
Tokyo	Dreary	▲58	▼36
Washington, DC	Showers	▲52	▼32

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
3:46 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Omais (02W) is centered north-northwest of Koror near 13N133E with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph and moving northwestward at 15 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 105 miles of the center. For more information on Tropical Storm Omais, see public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and bulletins issued by JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A surface trough extends southeastward from Omais to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers are occurring near the trough axis over Yap and southward within 105 miles of a line from 9N137E to EQ146E. Converging southeast winds further east are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west and south of Guam within 55 miles of a line from 16N136E to 10N140E to 8N146E and also south of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 8N148E to 1N152E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with divergent winds aloft to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae, Majuro, Tarawa and Butaritari atolls or south of a line from 4N161E to 9N171E to 6N180. Scattered showers are seen north of Pohnpei within 90 miles of a line from 13N154E to 8N159E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:40 PM	2:49 AM
Saturday	3:40 PM	3:38 AM
Sunday	4:40 PM	4:23 AM
Monday	5:39 PM	5:08 AM
Tuesday	6:38 PM	5:52 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Letter to the Editor

NMC needs a president, not a king

Recent newspaper headlines clearly show that NMC Board of Regents' chair Janet Han King's (mis)management of the Northern Marianas College is placing the institution at grave risk.

Before King took over, NMC was operating on sound footing. Under the leadership of NMC President Carmen Fernandez, the CNMI's main post-secondary institution succeeded in securing re-affirmation of its accreditation. However, following this accomplishment, King secured the chairmanship and summarily suspended President Fernandez and launched a political investigation to discredit Dr. Fernandez and find the legal grounds to remove the college president from office.

To achieve her political goal of removing Dr. Fernandez, King hired a Guam law firm to the tune of $25,000 for six months at $175 per hour. King has incurred this extraordinary legal expense at the expense of funding for students. These legal bills fall on top of the reported $40,000 per year already paid to NMC's regular legal counsel.

To add further insult to injury, King is now paying $160,000 per year for the employment of *two* college presidents, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who was suspended, and Lorraine Cabrera, King's hand-picked college administrator. Taken together, King is now incurring total costs of more than $200,000 for trying to remove President Fernandez. This is money that NMC desperately needs during a time of austerity. This money could be better used for NMC facility improvements and student services.

Because of King's aggressive actions, the emphasis at NMC has dramatically shifted from educating students to paying legal bills and waging public relations campaigns to cover up King's unprecedented actions.

At a time when funds are scarce, can the Legislature justify increasing NMC's budget for legal fees and two college president salaries indefinitely? If Dr. Fernandez is removed without proper legal grounds, will our community continue to finance Janet King's legal fees in extended litigation that would only bring down the CNMI's only public postsecondary institution?

When Janet King was not the NMC chair, she frequently criticized the college and questioned Dr. Fernandez. Now that King is the NMC chair, she expects us to believe that all is well with the college, while legal bills continue to mount with no clear end in sight and accreditation remains at even greater risk.

As some concerned NMC students have said, "We need a president, not a king." Indeed, restoring the President, who helped secure re-affirmation, and removing King, who is now gravely risking accreditation, would seem to best serve the interests of the college and the students it serves. NMC does not need an embedded lawyer embroiling the college in protracted litigation at student expense.

To the board, reinstate Dr. Fernandez for time is of the essence and much had been lost at the helm of a King.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
REVISED DATE OF CLOSING
FROM APRIL 5, 2010 TO APRIL 19, 2010
NMHC RFP 2010-001
FROM NMHC'S REGISTERED & APPROVED CONTRACTORS

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION OF ABANDONED/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, April 19, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from NMHC's Registered and Approved Contractors in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays.

The procedures for this procurement shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Stabilization Program provided to the Commonwealth. Aside from other governing regulations specified in the Scope of Work, proposers are advised this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts as well as Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968. Proposers are further notified NMHC will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

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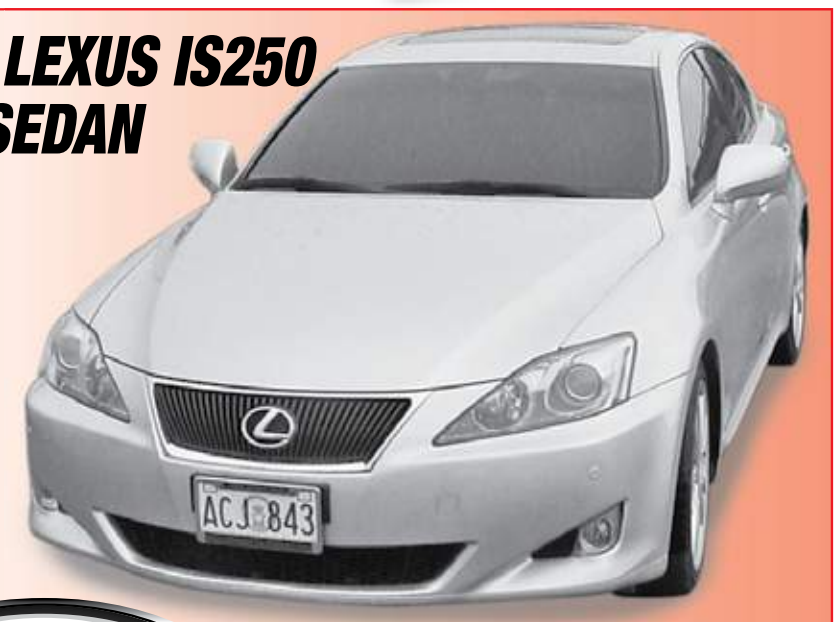

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PARENT

From Page 10

bacterial infections shortly). We know antibiotics do nothing for viruses—only for bacterial infections. So...you may ask, what's the harm if your health provider prescribes an antibiotic for your child's viral infection? Well, as a parent, you would probably feel better that you're doing all you can for your ill child—but are you helping or hurting? The facts are: overprescribing antibiotics causes the "bad" bacteria to mutate in such a way that they can become "super bacteria"; additionally, they will develop resistance to the usual antibiotics. Further, antibiotics can wipe out the "good" bacteria (Yep! We all have "good" bacteria in the body that serve important roles in our health), leading to potentially serious health problems directly related to the use of antibiotics. The greater the use of antibiotics (especially when not needed) leads to a greater resistance of "bad" bacteria. Without judicious use of antibiotics (such as saving them *only* for bacterial infections), many bacteria will become completely resistant to nearly all known antibiotics. The facts: This has already happened worldwide. Some bacteria are now killing people because they are more potent and deadly than before, and they no longer succumb to the use of antibiotics. And that is the *single most important reason* to restrain the use of antibiotics. Think of your children: What will happen if one of your children develops a serious bacterial infection and there is no longer an antibiotic that will kill that bacteria?

> *Kids may get sick four or five times a year while their immune system is becoming more formidable. By the time they reach adulthood, their immune system is tough enough to fight off most viruses.*

One study showed that from birth to age 18, a person really has need for antibiotics only *2.2* times. And how many times has your provider written your child a prescription for antibiotics by, say, the age of 5? Approximately 90 percent of all antibiotics written are simply not needed; often, they are written for obvious viral infections. Why is this? This is something very important for all parents to understand and will be addressed in Part 2.

But before we end Part 1, permit me to give you several more facts about why parents should *not* want to give their children antibiotics unless absolutely necessary. In addition to causing more potent and resistant bacteria, studies illustrate a relatively significant percentage of children are actually harmed by antibiotics. Some antibiotics can cause abdominal pain, diarrhea, and other adverse effects. Nearly 4 percent of children develop allergic reactions to antibiotics: rashes, hives, facial swelling, and persistent itching. These unfortunate children often end up at a clinic or the ER for treatment of their allergic reaction to an antibiotic they likely did not need. *Severe* allergic reactions can occur, compromising a child's airway. Rushed to the Emergency Room, the child may have a tube placed down the throat enabling them to breath, an IV started to give emergency medications, and admitted to the hospital for one or two days. Consider the consequences to your child emotionally (especially if you had insisted that the child receive antibiotics for a mere viral infection), not to mention the consequences to your bank account when you receive the hospital bill.

The important pearls of wisdom to remember:

■ Antibiotics do not kill viral infections, only bacterial infections; most human infections are viral (this includes cough, colds, flu, sore throats, bronchitis, and even most ear infections)

■ If you ask for antibiotics for your child's illness (even though it is likely a virus), your health provider will likely give it to you. This is not a good thing. Don't ask for antibiotics.

■ Inappropriate use of antibiotics causes resistance among bacteria, thereby making the antibiotic impotent in its attempt to kill off the more serious bacterial infections. Again, don't ask for antibiotics

■ Antibiotics themselves can lead to serious side effects, allergic reactions, and other unwanted health problems. You *do not* want your child to have antibiotics unless absolutely needed.

■ When your child is ill, it is likely a viral infection. Symptoms such as fevers, not eating, cough, runny nose, and sore throat are no need to hit the panic button. These are normal. However, if your child seems more ill than usual, is having any difficulty breathing, is becoming worse rather than better...or you're simply not sure, stop by your friendly clinic and seek medical advise.

Bill Weiss is a physician's assistant at the Marianas Medical Center.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual medical advice. Readers should obtain their physician's advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations.

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WESPAC heads back to Guam to vote on MNM recommendations

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council finished up their meeting last Wednesday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa and agreed on fishery management measures for the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, among other issues.

The council will also ask the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Defense to use an independent contractor to verify information on baseline conditions with regards to future impacts of proposed military operations in the Marianas Archipelago.

The council also voted to move forward with management measures for offshore aquaculture in federal waters of the western Pacific region and to consider revising management of the CNMI bottomfish fishery.

Under the bottomfish fishery proposal, the council wants to exclude non-bottomfish gear from the regulations and reduce the 0- to 50-nautical mile from shore bottomfish closure in the southern islands to 0 to 30 nautical miles and reduce the 0- to 10-nautical mile closure around Alamagan to 0 to 1 nautical mile.

The council also recommended that the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources be allowed access to vessel monitoring system information for all vessels operating in the U.S. exclusive economic zone around the CNMI and that the National Marine Fisheries Service provide bottomfish permitting and reporting training workshops for all inhabited islands of the CNMI.

It also supports DLNR's plan for incorporating capacity building as a condition of issuing permits for activities to be conducted in the Northern Islands.

The council also wants the National Marine Fisheries Service-funded study by the University of Guam and CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office on the hump-head wrasse and bumphead parrot fish and any associated management recommendations be thoroughly reviewed by its advisory bodies as well as Guam's Department of Agriculture and CNMI's Division of Fish and Wildlife.

For the Rose Atoll MNM, the council recommended the following measures:

■ To authorize fishing conducted for sustenance, subsistence or traditional indigenous purposes or uses as allowed for under customary exchange of fish.

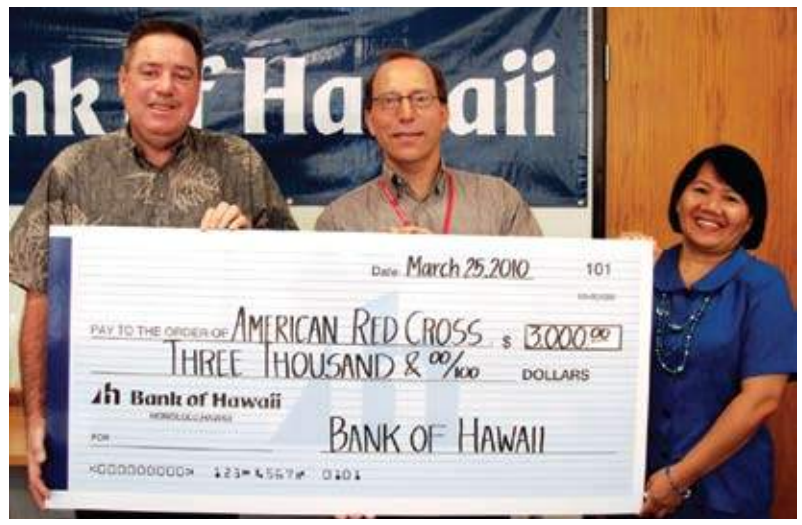
■ To establish a no-take area from 0 to 12 miles from shore with the Council to review the no-take regulations after three years.

■ To require permits and catch reporting for all fishing in the MNM and to include the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources in the administration and monitory of the permits and logbooks.

■ To exempt the American Samoa DMWR from permit requirements related to scientific research or exploration.

Council decisions are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

The council will meet again on March 25 and 26, 2010 in Guam.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Bank of Hawaii continues its long tradition of supporting the Red Cross Walkathon with a donation of $3,000. "Bank of Hawaii has for many years been a generous supporter, not only of financial donations, but with their staff and family participation," said John Hirsh, NMI Chapter director. "We're grateful that the bank is one of our key donors and that they will staff one of our aid stations along the route." In photo are, from left, John Sheather, senior vice president/district manager, BOH; John Hirsh, NMI Chapter director; and Lisa San Nicolas, assistant vice president, service manager, BOH.

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PIC donates $2,500 to NMC Foundation

Continuing its support of higher education in the CNMI, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan donated $2,500 to the Northern Marianas College Foundation earlier this week.

The donation was presented in support of the upcoming 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament, which is organized by the NMC Foundation. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

Earlier this year, PIC donated $10,500 to the college to establish a scholarship program for NMC students.

"The Pacific Islands Club is committed to enhancing higher education opportunities for the students of the CNMI," said Vicky Benavente, PIC Saipan executive assistant manager. "It is extremely important that students have local access to a high quality education so that they can expand their future prospects for productive and successful careers."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PIC representatives present a check for $2,500 to NMC officials at the resort's lobby. From left, PIC Human Resource Generalist Polly Deleon Guerrero, PIC Executive Assistant Manager Vicky Benavente NMC Interim President Lorraine T. Cabrera, and NMC Foundation President Ben Babauta.

"We are truly grateful for PIC's continued commitment to helping ensure that ample resources and funds are available to our students," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's lone postsecondary educational institution. The organization is composed of individuals who are dedicated and committed to ensuring that CNMI students receive the utmost support in pursuing their educational goals.

"Over the years, PIC has been extremely generous and supportive of the Northern Marianas College," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. "We are extremely thankful for the partnership we have with them."

Saipan Laolao Bay Golf Resort will play host to the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament on April 24, 2010. For sponsorship information or to register to play, contact 234-5498 Ext. 1050. ***(NMC)***

...and lends helping hand to NMI Crime stoppers

PIC

From left, NMI Crime Stoppers representatives James Matsumoto (NMI Crime Stoppers treasurer) and Jason Tarkong (DPS Crime Stoppers coordinator) accept a donation from Pacific Islands Club executive assistant Vicky Benavente.

The Pacific Islands Club Saipan has donated once again to the NMI Crime Stoppers as part of its commitment to community programs.

NMI Crime Stoppers treasurer James Matsumoto thanked PIC Saipan for its contribution to the organization and for taking part in the recent 8th annual Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament.

DPS coordinator Jason Tarkong said, "It's contributions from sponsors such as the PIC Saipan and other businesses which help the NMI Crime Stoppers persevere to solve criminal cases and keep our community safe. We are very grateful for PIC's dedicated support throughout the years. ***(PR)***

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HONOR ROLL

Saipan Community School's honor roll list for the 3rd Quarter

6th Grade

"A" honor 3.50-3.99: Mary Grace Tiglao, Ji Hoon Lee, Yong Heng Huang, Joel Jang, Quintin Ramsey, Tammy Ackerman

"B" honor 3.00-3.49: Jason Lee, Jun Pyo Jeon, Dylan Ackerman, Kui Lee, Rachel Park

7th Grade

"A" honor roll 3.50-3.99: Emily Dewitt, Jee Hyun Lee, Steven Choi

"B" honor roll 3.00-3.49: Lydin Johnson, Rena Son, Yong Da Huang, Xuan Jun Lu, Pedro Tenorio, Seiya Eda, Jehn Joyner, Jin Pyo Jeon, Clayton Sablan, Jong Ho Lee, Rebekah Esplin, Helen Yoo

8th Grade

"A" honor roll 3.50-3.99: Magdiel Corpuz, Eron Constante, Enoch Jr. Lim

"B" honor roll 3.00-3.49: Ericka Garcia, Valentine Paik, Sierra Calvo-Coleman, Isa Tudela, Ken Kimura

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings to Tia Mendiola! Today is the day! Have fun on your special day, love! Best wishes and many more joyful years to come! From your Lebwel familia!

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Open call to all Palauan youth in CNMI

All Palauan students in the CNMI are invited to participate in the PCA Youth Day celebration this Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 8am to 4:30pm, at the Civic Center beach in Susupe. This will be the first ever celebration of PCA Youth Day in the CNMI.

All Palauan youth living in the CNMI are invited to attend the event. There will be guest speakers, fun games, and many more activities for all to learn and celebrate Palauan culture in the CNMI. Lunch is provided.

For more information, call any of PCA officers: Rufino Aguon at 483-6232, Eileen Kintol at 288-7538, Felisa Brel at 285-3422 or Bernice Ravell at 256-3327. ***(PR)***

Comments sought on 2 Senate bills

The Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare is soliciting written recommendations, concerns, questions and/or comment on:

■ S. B. 17-10: To establish a population-based cancer registry in the CNMI

■ S.B. 17-11: To enact a new chapter 8 of the Division 2 Of Title 3 Of The Commonwealth Code (Medical Consent Act of 2010).

Copy of the legislation may be obtained at the CNMI Legislature on Capital Hill, Saipan, at the Offices of Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres, or the Senate Clerk, or may be downloaded at cnmileg.gov.mp.

Written recommendations, concerns, questions and/or comment may be dropped off at the Office of Sen. Ralph Dlg. Torres at the Legislative Building, e-mailed to senatorrtorres@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 500129, Saipan, MP 96950.

Deadline is April 9, 2010. For more information, contact (670) 664-8874. ***(PR)***

Kagman public meeting on poker arcades

The Kagman Komunidat Association is urging all Kagman residents to attend a public meeting on poker parlors within Kagman village. The purpose of the public meeting is to determine whether poker parlors should be allowed to remain in Kagman or be banned. Meeting will be at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesday, March 30, at 7pm. E-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2010, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an e-mail to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Democratic Party deadline to accept delegate applicants

The New NMI Democratic Party said the deadline to submit letters of intent to run for U.S. Delegate is on April 9, 2010, at 6pm. Interested individuals may e-mail their letter of intent to nmidemocrats@gmail.com or mail it to PO Box 504789, Saipan MP 96950. ***(PR)***

DPL to suspend new beach front concession applications

The Department of Public Lands is temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications for commercial beach front concession permits on public land on Saipan, for all types of motorized and non-motorized marine activities, effective April 1, 2010.

This suspension is necessary to avoid the overcrowding of areas presently reserved for commercial beach concessions. The DPL shall coordinate with the Coastal Resources Management Office regarding current usage and to determine if other sites will be considered feasible for future commercial concessions. ***(PR)***

AMSC, MIACP meetings focus on maritime safety, security

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Area Maritime Security Committee and the Mariana Islands Area Contingency Plan Saipan Component each held their March 2010 meetings yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club to, among other things, start preparations for a full-scale exercise that will be held in the CNMI in 2012.

The meetings, intended to address policies, procedures, best practices, lessons learned, and other maritime safety and security issues within the CNMI, was attended by representatives of several federal and local agencies, along with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Procedures for the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program were introduced to committee members. PREP was developed to comply with the Oil and Pollution Control Act of 1990 and the most complex type of PREP exercise is the full-scale exercise, one of which is scheduled for the CNMI in 2012.

Also discussed in the meeting were Saipan notification drills. The drills—both announced and unannounced—are performed once every three months. Both the U.S. Coast Guard and the private industry sector must perform two per year. The drills are intended to make sure all members know how to contact and who to contact at MIACP.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Participants in the Area Maritime Security Committee and the Mariana Islands Area Contingency Plan Saipan Component meetings pose for the Saipan Tribune at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club yesterday.

"[The AMSC] is not a Coast Guard committee, but a safety and security committee for maritime stakeholders that benefit from being members. And it's the members' participation that determines how effectively the CNMI can address a maritime related emergency," explained Paul Plunkett, contingency planner with the US Coast Guard, Marine Safety Detachment Saipan.

"Partnerships are very important for us to maintain. Cooperation and coordination is the key," said Lt. John Peterson, U.S. Coast Guard supervisor of Maritime Safety Detachment Saipan.

The objectives of the meetings were to identify and communicate maritime threats; provide a venue for partnerships building, information sharing, training and exercises; and the continual development of risk mitigation plans and strategies for natural or manmade emergencies and how to best respond and recover from them.

"The main concern [for the CNMI] is that we are so remote. As a community we all have to work together [so that] when an incident should happen, we are prepared ahead of time to effectively respond and mitigate," said Peterson.

CONGRATULATIONS! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy held its 2010 Science Quiz Bowl for the first and second grade division at the school's auditorium on March 25, 2010. The first place team winners are, from left to right: Andrei Yue, Martin Angelo Pangilinan, Megumi Fukushima, and Arvin Dayao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The second place winners in Grace Christian Academy's 2010 Science Quiz Bowl Junior High School Division are, from left, Katrina Punzalan, 7th Grade; Claire Chingkoe, 8th Grade; and Mark Daniel Versoza, 6th Grade.

ENFORCE UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS
Do not provide alcohol to minors under 21!
Help keep our youth and community safe!
A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force.
Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

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- **Chicken Leg Quarter** LIMIT 1 — $19.99 33 LBS. / $14.99 22 LBS.
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- **Baby Ribs** LIMIT 2 — $15.99 /CASE
- **Young Whole Chicken** LIMIT 2 — $33.99 30 LBS.
- **Philadelphia Cream Cheese** — $2.50
- **U.S. Eggs Extra Large** — $2.19 /DOZ. LIMIT 4 DOZ.
- **Hot Pockets/ Lean Pockets** — 2 for $6.00 1 12 OZ.
- **Vega Shrimp** — $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6
- **Green Mussels** — $3.99 2 LB. LIMIT 1
- **Dashida Soup Stock** — $6.99 1 KG.
- **Excellent Flour/ Rice Stick** — 79¢
- **Zesto Juice (All Flavor)** — $1.75 /BOX
- **Wilkins** — $2.99 6000 ML.
- **Butane Gas** LIMIT 2 CASES — $19.99 /CASE

FRESH MEATS • FROZEN FOODS • PRODUCE • GROCERY ITEMS

- **Chicken Wings** 5 LBS. — $11.99
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- **Beef Rib Finger** — $2.99 /LB
- **Ground Pork** — $2.39 1 LB. / $16.99 10 LBS.
- **Gusto's Chopped Ham** — $7.99 5 LBS. / $15.99 10 LBS.
- **Bar S Jumbo Franks** — $1.09 /PKG LIMIT 2
- **Bar S Bacon** — $2.49 /PKG.
- **Hoffy Portugese Sausage** — $1.99 /PKG.
- **Lamb Shoulder Roll** — $4.99 1 LB.
- **Squid** 1 LB. — $1.99 BOX
- **Tillamook Swisscheese** 1 LB. — $4.50
- **Shredd's Spread Country Crock** 15 OZ. — $3.29 12 OZ.
- **Tyson Anytizer** All Kinds — $3.99
- **Kashi Pizza** 11.9 OZ. — 2 FOR $10.00
- **Totino's** All Kinds — $1.99 10.2 OZ.
- **Happy Time Assorted Cookies** — $5.99 1.5 KG.
- **Kraft Cool Whip** Al Kinds 8 OZ. — $1.99
- **Folgers Coffee** — $9.99 39 OZ.
- **Mackerel Pike** — $20.99 22 LBS.
- **Tilapia** — 99¢ /LB / $37.99 /CASE
- **Milkfish** — $1.49 /LB
- **Broccoli** — $1.59
- **Cabbage** — 79¢ /LB.
- **Garlic** (4 pcs.) — 89¢ /LB.
- **Potato** (Jumbo) — 79¢ /LB.
- **Orange** — 89¢ /LB.
- **Watermelon** — 59¢ /LB.

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99
Pork Belly	$10.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99
Pork Chops	$10.99
Beef Stew	$13.99
Beef Backribs	$6.99
Beef Shortribs	$14.99
Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Quarter Legs	$4.99
Beef Ribeye Steak	$15.99
Flank Steak	$17.99

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- **Spam** (All Flavors) — $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS
- **Palm Corned Beef** 11.5 OZ. — $2.79
- **Hormel Corned Beef Hash** — $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- **Hormel Corned Beef** — $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS
- **Black Label** — $1.39 LIMIT 6 CANS
- **Hormel Chili No Beans** — $1.99
- **Master A1 Tuna** — 99¢ LIMIT 6 CANS
- **Ace Diamond Tuna** — $1.19 LIMIT 6 CANS
- **Ligo Sardines** — 3 for $1.00
- **Century Tuna** (All Flavors) — 79¢ EACH
- **Pink Salmon** 5 OZ. — 79¢ EACH
- **Dinty Moore Beef Stew** 15 OZ. — $1.69
- **Maggi Magic Sarap Seasoning** 12 Sachets/Pack — $1.00
- **Knorr Carb & Corn Soup** 60 g. — $1.25
- **Chicken Noodle** — 99¢ /PACK
- **Kimchee Base** — $4.99 450G
- **Kikkoman** — $3.99 1.6 L
- **Silver Swan Soy Sauce** 1 GALLON — $2.99
- **Datu Puti Vinegar** — $2.99 1 GALLON
- **UFC Catsup** 1 GALLON — $3.99
- **Ventura Mayonaise** — $9.99 1 GALLON
- **AVO Vegetable Oil** — $6.99 1 GALLON
- **Canola Oil** — $8.99 1 GALLON
- **Salad Oil** — $23.99 5 GALLON
- **Real Fresh Milk** 1 LITER — $19.99 /CASE
- **Foremost Reduced Fat** 1 LITER — $14.99 /CASE
- **Promil** Ages 1 to 3 — $22.99 1.8 KG.
- **Enfamil Milk** — $16.99 12.5 OZ. / $29.99 23.4 OZ. / $39.99 LIQUID CASE
- **Sugar** — 99¢ 1 KG. / $1.99 2 KG.
- **Hungarian Flour** — $2.99 5 LBS.
- **Corn Starch** — 99¢ 1 LB.
- **Tabasco** 12 OZ. — $6.99
- **Ichiban** — $8.99 /BOX
- **Korean Bowl Noodle** — $7.99 /CASE
- **Lucky Me Pancit Canton** — 4 for $1.00
- **Atsuete Seeds** — $1.99 /BAG
- **Lemon Powder** — $4.99 /CASE
- **Chorizzos** — $26.99 LIMIT 1
- **Vlassic Dill Pickles** — $5.99 WHOLE / $6.99 SLICE
- **Kraft Parmesan Cheese** 16 OZ. — $2.99
- **Coffee Mix** — $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS
- **Purified Water** 550 ml. — $5.99 LIMIT 2 /CASE
- **Tang** 22 QT. — $8.99
- **Assam Black Tea** — $8.99 24 PCS. /CASE
- **Hi-C** 250 ML. — $11.99 /CASE
- **Coke** (All Flavors) — $12.99 /CASE WARM ONLY
- **Natural Ice Beer** — $5.00 6 PACK / $17.99 /CASE LIMIT 2

NON-FOOD

- **Tide Detergent** — $3.99 2.8 KG. / $6.99 5 KG.
- **Gain Powder** LIMIT 2 — $11.99 80 LOADS
- **Gain Liquid Detergent** (All Kind) — $4.99 50 OZ. LIMIT 2
- **Joy Dishwashing** — $5.99 90 OZ.
- **Dawn Diswashing** — $7.99 90 OZ.
- **Luv's Big Box** (All Sizes) — $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6
- **Huggies Mega** — $14.99 3, 4, 5, 6
- **Sunsilk Shampoo & Conditioner** — $1.99 EACH
- **Vaseline Shampoo 2 in 1** — $2.50
- **Cream Silk** — $1.99 EACH
- **Clorox** — $3.29 3 QR.
- **Bounty Paper Towel** — $18.99 15 ROLLS
- **Diamond Foil** 200 SQ.FT. — $6.99
- **Bounty Basic Paper Tower** — $8.99 8 ROLLS
- **Toilet Tissue** — $3.50 10 ROLLS
- **Charmin Regular** — $6.99 24 ROLLS
- **Special Value Dog Food** — $25.99 40 LBS.
- **Axxion Foam Plates** 125 CT — $6.99 LIMIT 1
- **Safeguard** — 59¢ 90 G.
- **Candle Jar** — $1.39 EACH / $12.99 CASE

Business

Frantic EU seeks solution to Greek debt crisis

BRUSSELS (AP)—European leaders are facing a moment of truth at a Thursday summit, as markets press them to come up with a financial safety net for Greece—with help from the International Monetary Fund—to stop the euro's slide and keep debt crises from afflicting more eurozone countries.

The euro hit a 10-month low against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday as leading credit ratings agency Fitch Ratings downgraded Portugal's debt, turning up the volume on investor fears that Europe's currency union has no way to shore up members with troubled economies.

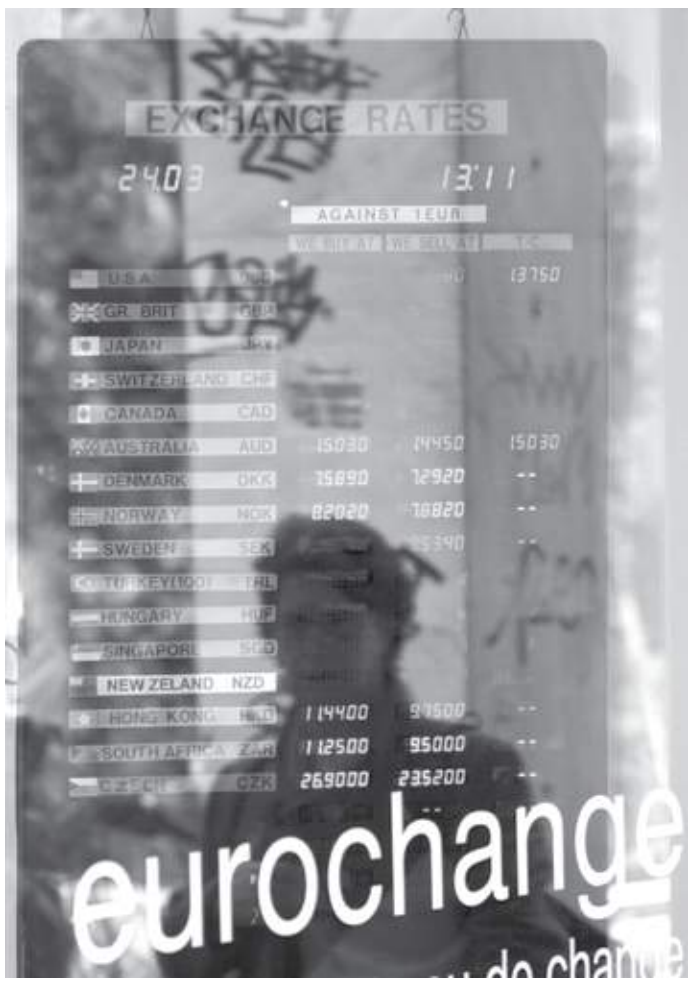
EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso called on European governments to end dithering over what to do and agree on a detailed plan of financial help for Greece. He said their response at a two-day meeting would be a test of "their commitment to European and monetary union."

But Germany has blocked efforts by European nations to come up with a bailout program, saying Greece isn't asking for help, isn't on the verge of bankruptcy and should turn to the IMF if it reaches a point where it can't borrow from markets. France and some EU officials were opposed to IMF involvement.

European diplomats said frantic negotiations Wednesday could see both France and Germany soften their views and find a solution that includes the IMF and European Union sharing the burden of a financial rescue. Speaking on condition of anonymity, they said Spain's Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero is heading efforts to get the 16 eurozone nations to meet separately Thursday on the crisis surrounding Greece, along with the meeting by all 27 EU member governments.

Eurozone leaders have only met once for a summit before at the height of the banking crisis in 2008. "He is pushing hard for this and we think it is going to happen," said the diplomat.

EU President Herman Van Rompuy is also asking for a eurozone summit, said another EU official. He met French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Paris on Wednesday, Sarkozy's office said.



AP

Exchange rates are displayed at a currency exchange in central Athens on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

How Greece compares

On average, Greek workers earn less than others in the European Union; average annual wages, 2006, in euros (dollars):

Denmark	**€48,307**($60,867)
U.K.	**44,496** (56,065)
Luxembourg	**43,621** (54,962)
Ireland	**42,080** (53,021)
Netherlands	**40,800** (51,408)
Germany	**39,364** (49,599)
Belgium	**37,674** (47,469)
Austria	**36,673** (46,208)
Sweden	**35,084** (44,206)
Finland	**34,080** (42,941)
France	**31,368** (39,524)
EU 27	**31,302** (39,441)
Spain	**21,402** (26,967)
Cyprus	**21,310** (26,851)
Greece	**20,016** (25,220)
Malta	**15,278** (19,250)
Portugal	**14,893** (18,765)
Czech Rep.	**8,284** (10,438)
Poland	**8,178** (10,304)
Hungary	**7,866** (9,911)
Slovakia	**7,040** (8,870)
Latvia	**5,211** (6,566)
Romania	**3,713** (4,678)
Bulgaria	**2,195** (2,766)

NOTE: Data not available for Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia; euros converted to dollars at 2006 annual rate

© 2010 MCT
Source: Eurostat, European Industrial Relations Observatory
Graphic: Pat Carr

Pressure growing on China to revalue currency

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pressure on China to allow its currency to rise in value against the dollar intensified Wednesday with a prominent economist telling Congress that the Obama administration should cite China and four other Asian economies as currency manipulators in a report due in April.

C. Fred Bergsten, head of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told the House Ways and Means Committee that a successful campaign to pressure Asian nations on the currency issue could create as many as 1.2 million new American jobs.

Bergsten said that not only is China keeping its currency undervalued against the dollar, but Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan are keeping their currencies undervalued as well to avoid losing sales in markets where they compete against China.

He said he believes the Chinese yuan is undervalued by about 40 percent against the dollar and the other currencies are similarly undervalued. He said allowing those currencies to rise against the dollar to the proper levels would trim America's trade deficit by $100 billion to $150 billion annually. Last year's current account deficit totaled $419.9 billion.

Bergsten said a fall in the value of the dollar against the various Asian currencies would boost U.S. exports and result in an additional 600,000 to 1.2 million jobs during a time of high unemployment in this country.

Feisty administration pushes new Wall Street rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration went on the attack Wednesday against the country's biggest business lobby over its resistance to financial rules as Democrats and the White House voiced new optimism that sweeping Wall Street regulations could be completed within months.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that a reworking of the financial system was sorely needed and that an attempted obstruction by the Chamber was misguided.

"It is so puzzling that despite the urgent and undeniable need for reform, the Chamber of Commerce has launched a $3 million advertising campaign against it," Wolin told a business audience as it lunched beneath chandeliers at the organization's ornate headquarters a block from the White House.

Wolin's remarks—and a White House meeting between President Barack Obama and leading administration and congressional authors of the regulatory overhaul—signaled a new determination to make reining in Wall Street the next presidential priority.

The legislation working its way through Congress, prompted by the Wall Street meltdown of 2008, would be the most sweeping change in financial regulations since the New Deal. It would give the government unprecedented powers to split up firms considered a threat to the economy, put together a council of regulators to watch for risks in the financial system and create an independent consumer watchdog.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Attorneys sharpen tools to sue Toyota

SAN DIEGO (AP)—As lawsuits over Toyota acceleration problems multiply, more than 150 attorneys gathered to sharpen their legal tools Wednesday on the eve of a major federal court hearing on whether dozens of cases will be consolidated before a single judge. The seminar, titled "Toyota Recall Litigation Conference," was organized by legal publisher HarrisMartin and looked ahead to Thursday's scheduled hearing before a panel of federal judges in San Diego. The judges will choose whether to combine more than 100 Toyota lawsuits and where to send them. Toyota has been hit with an avalanche of lawsuits that potentially could cost the company billions of dollars following its recall of more than 8 million vehicles worldwide over sudden unexpected acceleration, including about 6 million in the U.S. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has linked 52 deaths to the accelerator problems, which Toyota has blamed on floor mats that can snag accelerators or pedals that sometimes stick.

Govt: US oil production increased in 2009

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Increased crude oil production in the Gulf of Mexico and North Dakota more than offset declines elsewhere last year to result in the first annual increase in U.S. oil production since 1991, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Domestic oil production in 2009 averaged 5.32 million barrels a day, up 7.4 percent from 4.95 million barrels a day in 2008, according to the federal agency's Short-Term Energy Outlook report for March. Last year saw the highest level of domestic oil production since 2004, when the daily average was 5.42 million barrels. Production had been declining steadily since 1991's daily average of 7.42 million barrels.

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action No. 08-0225-CV
Plaintiff,)
vs.) AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
JOAQUIN JUAN E. NORITA,)
Defendant.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and the interest of Defendant in the following property: Tract No. 225063, located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on April 29, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments much be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspections and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "ASIS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2010.

/s/Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

THIS SATURDAY
SABALU FARMERS MARKET
(across MHS Susupe)
Fresh Local Produce &
Local Dishes
6:00am - 11:00am
Also visit Farmers Market on Tuesday!
from 3pm - 9pm (across Kristo Rai)

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Leg Quarter 22 LBS. $15.99 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) $14.99 33 LBS. $20.99 LIMIT 1 $19.99

Whole Chicken LIMIT 1 CASE 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) $32.99 $33.99

Young Spare Ribs 10 LBS. $15.99

Pork Spareribs BBQ Adobo Cut 20 LBS. $14.99

Beef Back Spare Ribs 20 LBS. $22.99

Turkey Tail 20 lbs. 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) $14.99 $15.99

Mackerel PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. $22.99 PIKE (uneven weight per case) $1.29/LB.

NORBEST YOUNG TURKEY $1.59/POUND

Chorizos 4 lbs. 64 oz. $24.99

SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh 500ml. x 20 $5.99/CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) $25.99 $24.99 3 days only (02/26 - 02/28)

Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 2) $31.99 $29.99

Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100pcs. $89.99

Sapporo Ichiban 21pcs./case (LIMIT 1) $8.99/CASE

Tasters Choice Pouch 8 oz. $6.99

Springfield Dried Beans or Peas - 16oz. 50% OFF

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham 10 lbs. $15.99 Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $16.99

Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95

Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $4.49

Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.49

Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.09

Sea Port Crab Stickies Imitation 16 oz. $1.99

Ground Beef 5 LBS. $9.99 10 LBS. $16.99

Bar-S Hotlinks 24 oz. $3.99

Mackarel Family Bag $5.99

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. $2.99

Seafood Mix Log Feng Brand 1 lb. $2.59

Blue Crab Section Per Box $8.95

Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $4.99 Limit 1

Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. $4.99

Chicken Wings 3 lbs. $5.99/PACK 5.5 lbs. $11.99/PACK

Milk Fish $1.39/LB

Tilapia $0.99¢/LB

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $1.99 3 days only (02/26 - 02/28) $2.29

Onion 79¢/LB

Garlic per bundle 89¢

Spam 12 oz. LIMIT 6 ALL FLAVORS $2.29

Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. (Limit 6) $1.39

Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 69¢

Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 89¢

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $2.29

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.99

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. $1.79

DM Beef Stew 15 oz. $1.79

Master A1 Tuna 7 oz. 99¢ Limit 12

3 Diamond Tuna $1.19 Limit 12

Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. $1.09

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢

Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. $1.19

Crisco All Vegetable Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99

Dragon Veg. Oil 1 Gal. $6.99

Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $23.99 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) $24.99

Garden Fresco Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. $7.99

Golden State White Vinegar 1 gallon $3.49

Crisco Pure Corn 64 oz. $7.99

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes) 1 Gal. $6.99

Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.99

Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99

Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. $2.99

Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. $4.99

Coco Mackerel 15 oz. $1.29

Sugar 2 kg. $1.99

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 69¢

Nescafe Taster's Choice Decaf/Original 7oz. $7.99

Nissin Cup Noodles 27 oz./box all flavors $5.99

Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. 99¢

Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. $1.99 16 OZ. $3.50

Philadelphia Original Creame Cheese $2.99

Mazwell House 34.5 oz. $9.99

Coffee Mate 50 oz. $8.99

Folgers 33.9 oz. $9.99 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) $10.99

Korean Butane Gas Limit 1 Case 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) $19.99/CASE

Foam Cups 51 cnts. $1.99

Bounty Basic 15 ROLLS $15.99 8 ROLLS $8.99

Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Foam Plates 125 ct. $7.99

Drypers Mega ALL SIZE $14.99

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. $1.29

Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00

Bottled White Candle 12 pcs/case $13.99/CASE

Drypers (All Size) Mega Pack $14.99

Luvs Big Pack (All Size) $19.99

Charmin Basis 24 big rolls = 48 regular rolls $14.99

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $7.99

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95	BEEF STEW	$12.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99	PORK BUTT	$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99		

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.99
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$7.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00
PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS)	$3.99

Country Time Lemonade 2.33 Kg. $7.99

Tang 22 qts. $6.99

Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. $7.99

Kool Aid 5 lbs. $7.99

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $6.99

Excellent Bihon 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28) 99¢

Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. $5.99

Real Fresh Milk (Regular only) $20.99/CASE 236 ml. $16.99

Enfamil LIPIL Lipil 25.7 oz. $29.99

Enfamil Lipil with Iron 8 oz by 16 cans $41.99/CASE

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) $12.99

Pepsi 330ml Warm Only $13.99/CASE All Flavors

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $26.99 3 days only (03/26 - 03/28)

Nation

Hurled bricks, threats surround health overhaul

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Bricks have been hurled through Democrats' windows, a propane line was cut at the home of a congressman's brother and lawmakers who voted for a federal health care bill have received phone threats in the days before and after passage of the sweeping legislation.

Authorities are investigating incidents in Kansas, Virginia and other places, including Rochester, N.Y., where a brick tossed through the window of a county Democratic Party office had a note attached that said: "Extremism in defense of liberty is no vice," roughly quoting the late Barry Goldwater, the 1964 Republican presidential nominee.

The FBI and Capitol Police were briefing Democratic lawmakers on how to handle perceived security threats after at least 10 reported incidents, said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

Those who feel they are at risk will be "getting attention from the proper authorities," Hoyer said, declining to say whether any are now receiving added security. Normally only those in leadership positions have personal security guards.

The threats surprised an official with a think tank that monitors extremist groups.

"I think it is astounding that we are seeing this wave of vigilantism," said Mark Potok of the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center.

In Virginia, authorities were investigating after someone cut a propane line leading to a grill at the Charlottesville home of U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello's brother. Perriello also said a threatening letter was sent to his brother's house.

The home's address was posted online by tea party activists angry about the Virginia Democrat's vote in favor of the health care overhaul. They had mistaken the brother's address for that of the lawmaker.

Potok compared the online posting of a public official's address to tactics used by hate groups.

Obama issues low-key order on abortions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Anything but jubilant, President Barack Obama awkwardly kept a promise Wednesday he made to ensure passage of historic health care legislation, pledging the administration would not allow federal funds to pay for elective abortions covered by private insurance.

Unlike Tuesday, when a beaming Obama signed the health care law in a nationally televised ceremony interrupted repeatedly by applause, the White House refused to permit coverage of the event. It occurred in the Oval Office in the presence of a small group of anti-abortion Democratic lawmakers who had extracted the commitment over the weekend. The president supports abortion rights.

The political maneuvering occurred as the FBI announced it was investigating threats received by about 10 Democratic lawmakers in recent days in apparent connection with the intensely controversial health care law.

ACROSS THE NATION

Discharging gays to draw more scrutiny in military

WASHINGTON (AP)—Discharging a gay person for violating the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy will draw unprecedented scrutiny under new orders from Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who is already pushing to repeal the ban on gays serving openly in the U.S. military. Guidelines to be announced Thursday call for testimony from third parties to be given under oath. The discharge of enlisted personnel must be approved by officers who hold a rank equivalent to a one-star general or above, according to military and defense officials familiar with the plan. They spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the announcement. The goal is to ensure that the law is applied fairly and consistently across the military and that flimsy testimony from third parties is eliminated, the officials said. The plan is considered a stopgap measure until Congress decides whether to repeal the 1993 law.

Feds: Guns, cash stashed in reputed mobster's home

CHICAGO (AP)—Federal agents searching a convicted mobster's home near Chicago found loaded guns, nearly $730,000 in cash and tape recordings that may contain "criminal conversations" hidden behind a basement wall, according to court documents filed Wednesday. FBI agents and U.S. Marshals executed a search warrant Tuesday at Frank Calabrese Sr.'s home in Oak Brook, and discovered the stash—along with jewelry, recording devices and handwritten notes—in a secret compartment behind a large family portrait hanging on the wall. Agents also found about $26,000 in bundled cash in a locked desk drawer in the bedroom of his wife, Diane, according to the documents filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago. Calabrese, 71, was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted last year with several other reputed members of the Chicago Outfit in a racketeering conspiracy that included 18 murders—Calabrese himself was found responsible for 13 mob murders.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 29, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
      - February 23, 2010

2) **Public Comments**

3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Policy
   3. Personnel
   4. Ad Hoc Reports

4) **Old Business**

5) **New Business**

6) **Executive Session**

7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Acting Chair, MVA Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DPW-081

SUBMISSION: APRIL 09, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) LOCATED AT THE LOWER BASE REFUSE STATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED PROPOSERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITING TO NO LATER THAN **MARCH 30, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS** TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION BY FAX TO (670) 322-2762 OR EMAIL AT dpwsolidwaste@pticom.com.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-WIA-083

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 20, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY - ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/S/ EDITH DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WIA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT SERVICE CONTRACT

FOR

AGRICULTURE CONSULTANT
(BETELNUT AND RODENT CONTROL PROJECT)

CLOSING DATE IS APRIL 12, 2010 BY 4:30 PM

Northern Marianas College is announcing a one (1) year contract for an Agriculture Consultant for the Betel nut and Rodent Control Project. Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at NMC CREES Office, located in Bldg F , Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30 pm.

Interested vendors may submit inquiries regarding this announcement to Ross Manglona, by facsimile to (670) 234-0054, or by e-mail to rossm@nmcnet.edu. If there are no qualified vendors or the number of qualified vendors, are deemed insufficient, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of submittals until the position is filled.

It is the policy of Northern Marianas College that equal opportunity is given to all qualified vendors without regard to age, race, gender, marital status, place of origin, religion, disability status, political affiliation or family relationship, or genetic information (GINA). The college reserves the right to waive or implement other means to meet its needs and the right to reject all vendors or withdraw the vacancy should NMC determine such a position is no longer needed or able to be filled. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

/s/Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREES

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(JVA 10-002)

OPENING DATE: March 26, 2010
CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment as a Legal Counsel for the Fund. Salary maximum is $70,000, depending on experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.

Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others** as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail through the Fund Administrator. **Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA10-002 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope.**

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council & Statewide Independent Living Council will hold their FY 2010 Annual Joint Meeting on Wednesday March 31, 2010 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY ITEM**
Call to Order/Roll Call
Review & Adoption of Agenda
Review & Adoption of Previous Minutes

II. **REPORTS**
SILC Chairperson
CLI Director
SRC Chairperson
OVR Director

III. **OLD BUSINESS**
FY 2011 State Plan Updates for IL & VR
Accessible Mass Transit
Training

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
Needs Assessment

V. **CONSUMERS' FORUM**

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jesus Elameto
SRC Chairperson

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

TanHoldings and the CNMI joins cities from across the region
and around the world to help deliver a powerful
message about the need for action on global warming.

EARTH HOUR
8:30PM-9:30PM

Saturday, March 27, 2010
See your world in a whole new light.
Turn off your lights for Earth Hour.

WWF
www.earthhour.org

Tan Holdings

In partnership with:

15 minutes can Beautify CNMI!
www.Beautify CNMI.org

Division of Environmental Quality
DEQ
CNMI

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-016

"SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing **"Assistance to CNMI PSS in supporting lower performing schools and in building system-wide capacity for leading and sustaining improvement in the academic achievement of our students"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 19, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 14, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-016" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

World

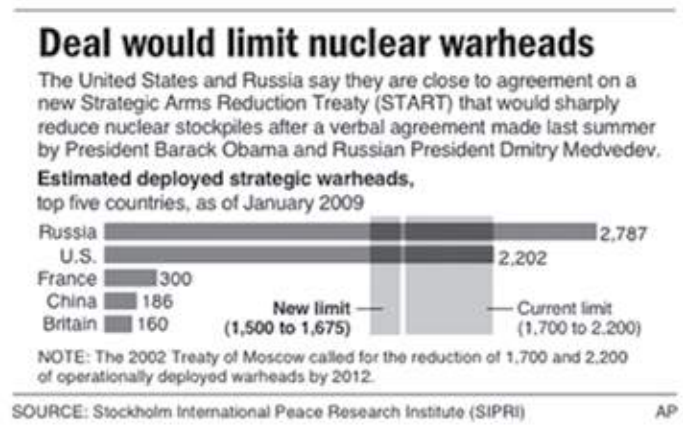
Treaty to cut US-Russia nukes; signing in 2 weeks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. and Russia reached a breakthrough agreement Wednesday for a historic treaty to reduce the nuclear arsenals of the former Cold War rivals, the most significant pact in a generation and an important milestone in the decades-long quest to lower the risk of global nuclear war.

After long and trying negotiations, President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev are to sign the treaty in two weeks in Prague, once final technical details are worked out, officials in Washington and Moscow said. The accord is expected to cut the number of long-range nuclear weapons held by each side to about 1,500, and it raises hopes for further disarmament in the years ahead.

The deal is seen as sealing an increased level of trust and cooperation between the U.S. and Russia, who possess the vast majority of the world's nuclear arms and have labored under strained relations in recent years.

Obama and Medvedev are expected to seal the deal when they talk by telephone this week, setting the stage for a White House campaign to win Senate ratification.


Deal would limit nuclear warheads
The United States and Russia say they are close to agreement on a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that would sharply reduce nuclear stockpiles after a verbal agreement made last summer by President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.
Estimated deployed strategic warheads, top five countries, as of January 2009
Russia 2,787
U.S. 2,202
France 300
China 186
Britain 160
New limit (1,500 to 1,675)
Current limit (1,700 to 2,200)
NOTE: The 2002 Treaty of Moscow called for the reduction of 1,700 and 2,200 of operationally deployed warheads by 2012.
SOURCE: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Car bomb kills 6 in Colombia's main Pacific port

BOGOTA (AP)—A car bomb ripped open cars and storefronts in the administrative center of Colombia's Pacific port of Buenaventura on Wednesday, killing six people and wounding more than 30, authorities said. The blast occured about 9:30 a.m. near offices of the mayor and prosecutors, with six employees of the latter institution among the injured, said Jose de la Pava, the chief provincial prosecutor. Buenaventura is a key cocaine trafficking hub as the country's only major Pacific port and is rife with rival criminal bands.

Runaway train cars crash in Norway, 3 dead

OSLO (AP)—Sixteen runaway train cars careened downhill for three miles (five kilometers) and crashed into a port building Wednesday, killing three workers, before two of the cars plunged into the water. The empty train cars broke loose from a cargo train and slammed into the port terminal on the edge of the Oslo fjord, destroying the building, police and railroad officials said. The victims had been working in or around the terminal, police spokeswoman Martine Laeng said. A worker initially reported missing was later confirmed as one of three casualties; three people were reported injured.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-013

"SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"Variety of professional development session in a range of program areas, including school improvement, school and district level leadership, curriculum and instruction, standards and assessment, out-of-time learning, and education technology"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 12, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-013" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-014

"LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in developing an **"Enhance school leadership program to measure the leadership capabilities of our school instructional staff (teachers and school administrators) through a series of professional development activities and then through ongoing classroom observation"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 12, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 1:00 P.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-014" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, April 16, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of major overhaul and limited running parts for MITSUI #1 OVERHAUL project at Rota Power Plant CNMI.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down MITSUI #1 for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. MITSUI #1 is seriously overdue for overhaul and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not necessary, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of emission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Monday, March 29, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-021 MITSUI#1 OVERHAUL PARTS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Wednesday, April 07, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Friday, April 2, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Or enjoy our extensive menu
and daily specials with our unparalleled view
Lenten Dinner Specials
Revolving Restaurant 360
$18.00 only
$16.00 only
Herb Crusted Atlantic Salmon Fillet
On Sauteed Spinach, Mushroooms And Pesto,
Baked Potato And Vegetables
Broiled "Basa" Fillets
On "Yellow Rice" (Turmeric, Aromats),
Crisp Veggies And Coconut Finadene
Enjoy healthy food, fresh ingredients, no saturated oils (or trans-fats)
with a nice Saipan touch at very reasonable prices
360
Revolving Restaurant 360
8th Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
234-3600/285-0360 /234-1610
lent

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-017

"CAREER EXPLORATION, GUIDANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"High Quality Career Exploration, Guidance and Development Program for CNMI Public School System."** The scope of work is available beginning March 12, 20 10 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Ms. Jessica Barcinas-Taylor, CTE Program Coordinator via fax to 670.664-3796 or e-mail to butterspirit@yahoo.com no later than April 7, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-017" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This Project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation of Bid
PSS IFB 10-021

"Computer Notebooks and Computer Speakers for Koblerville Elementary School (KES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Computer Notebooks and Computer Speakers for Koblerville Elementary School.** The Scope of Work is available beginning March 26, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: **robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp**

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-021"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 9,2010, at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Colo. topless gardener complaints prompt new rules

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A woman gardening wearing only a yellow thong and pink gloves has brought neighborhood complaints and new rules from a housing authority in Colorado. Boulder Housing Partners plans to amend its rules so that tenants cover up when they're outside. Several passers-by told Boulder police earlier this week that 52-year-old Catharine Pierce was topless while tending to her yard. Last year, she was threatened with eviction for gardening wearing only pasties and a thong. Police responding to Wednesday's reports decided Pierce wasn't breaking any laws.

Mich. fugitive found in Pa. bar in hospital gown

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A fugitive wanted for bank robbery in Michigan is in custody after police say he walked out of a Pittsburgh hospital and into a bar wearing only his hospital gown, with an intravenous needle still his arm. Authorities say police were called to JR's Bar Friday night after 20-year-old Elbert Lewis Thompson II walked in from Allegheny General Hospital. Thompson was taken into custody a short time later. Police in Vandergrift say Thompson had been detained by officers after fleeing a traffic stop there, about 25 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. He was initially hospitalized after complaining of feeling sick and losing consciousness.

Former inmate gets 15 years for breaking into jail

VIERA, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for violating his probation by trying to break into the Brevard County jail. A judged sentenced 25-year-old Sylvester Jiles of Cocoa on Monday. He was convicted in January of trespassing on jail property and resisting an officer. Authorities say Jiles tried to climb a 12-foot fence at the Brevard County Detention Center in August. He was caught and hospitalized with severe cuts from the barbed wire. He had been released a week earlier after accepting a plea deal on a manslaughter charge. Jiles had begged jail officials to take him back into custody, saying he feared retaliation from the victim's family. Jail officials said they couldn't take him in and told him to file a police report.

Police: Robbers called Conn. bank for money to go

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (AP)—Police in Connecticut say they had ample warning of a bank robbery because the two suspects called the bank ahead of time and told an employee to get a bag of money ready. Police arrested 27-year-old Albert Bailey and an unidentified 16-year-old boy on robbery and threatening charges Tuesday afternoon at a People's United Bank branch in Fairfield. Sgt. James Perez says the two Bridgeport residents showed up about 10 minutes after making the call and were met by police in the parking lot. Perez told the Connecticut Post the suspects were "not too bright."

SoCal teacher arrested in alleged drunken teaching

THERMAL, Calif. (AP)—A Southern California school teacher has been arrested for allegedly teaching while drunk. Toro Canyon Middle School teacher Tonya Neff was taken to the Indio jail Tuesday afternoon and booked for investigation of felony child endangerment. Administrators at Thermal's Toro Canyon Middle School told the Riverside County Sheriff's Department that the 47-year-old teacher was apparently intoxicated on campus.

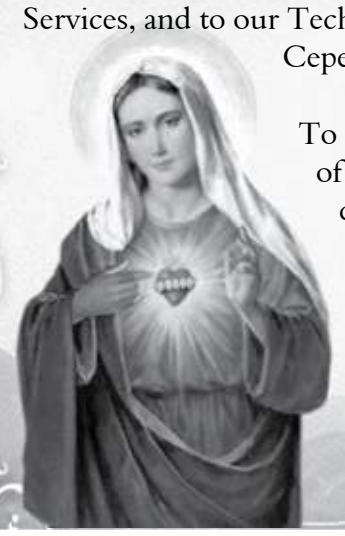
Message of Appreciation

From the bottom of our Hearts,
We the family of our beloved

Maria Salas Camacho Vaughn
"Maria-N Mang"

Would like to extend our most heart felt Na Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and most profound and deepest gratitude to all of our families and friends for all the love, thoughtful gestures, kindness, prayers and most especially for your presence at the Eucharistic celebration, Nightly Rosaries and Daily Masses.

Special thanks to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Father Celso, Father Manny, staff of Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Services, and to our Techa Mrs. Marcy P. Cepeda.



To each and everyone who joined us in our time of grief, those not able to be with us and have contacted us from afar, and those who have thought of us in their prayers.
Si Yu'us Ma' ase.

God Bless.

From the Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Family.

Science & Technology

Cell phones the must-have accessory for concertgoers

By KEVIN C. JOHNSON
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Forget about flicking your Bic when your favorite band pulls out a power ballad in concert.

Instead pull out your phone.

Lighters have been replaced by smart phones with applications that flash an image of a flickering flame.

It's just one of the many uses for the modern concertgoers' must-have accessory and will surely be in full force at this summer's concerts.

Things are moving so swiftly that staying home and watching concerts stream live on cell phones may become the norm.

"It's something that goes hand in hand as a concertgoer — your ticket and then your cell phone," said Justin Stiehr, Verizon Wireless' associate director of marketing for Missouri and Kansas. "After you get patted down, those are the two things you walk into a concert with."

Stiehr said about 70 percent of pop music fans are using phones at concerts in ways that have nothing to do with making calls.

ED SUBA/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT
About 70 percent of pop music fans are using phones at concerts in ways that have nothing to do with making calls.

They are putting up concert clips on You Tube or Twitter while the show is still going, texting messages to a screen on the stage and using an application to identify a song they don't know.

"Clearly, cell phones have become pervasive, and have added a new dimension to the concert experience," said Steve Litman, executive producer of Steve Litman Presents, which books shows at the Fox Theatre and other venues in St. Louis. "There's a new electronic layer of sharing the experience that's happening in real time."

Music fan Jerome Redding, a 24-year-old field technician for Redbox, is all over his HTC Touch Pro phone at concerts. "I find it an innovative way to connect with folks, with people at the venue and my community of friends on the social networking sites," he said. Redding posted photos of Lady Gaga's concert in January at the Fox Theatre to Facebook during the show.

Carlyn Christian, a 17-year-old student at Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School, frequently uses her iPhone at concerts, including at shows for Lady Gaga, Rascal Flatts, Jonas Brothers and Taylor Swift.

STUMP THE GEEKS

New printer may be cheaper than ink cartridges

By ANNE KRISHNAN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Question: I think that the printer heads on my older HP Deskjet 832C printer need cleaning. Online help says to use the printer tools to clean the heads, but I don't have any printer tools on the desktop or under the Start menu. I no longer have the printer install CD (if I ever had one). What can I do to clean the printer heads and get real color instead of a red-brown mess?

Answer: Some inkjets have buttons on the printer to allow you to clean the printer heads, while others rely on the included software, such as HP Toolbox.

Since you don't have the software, and assuming that you're using Windows XP, start by going to the "Start" menu and selecting "Control Panel." Click on the "Printers" icon, and you should see a list of all available printers. Right-click on the HP 832C and choose "Properties."

In these settings, you should see an option for cleaning and aligning the print heads, said Jeremy Behrens, an IT consultant in Audubon, N.J. Clicking the "clean" button, or whatever it's called on this particular printer, will spit out a test page with patterns on it.

You also can try to clean the printer heads manually, which on an HP printer are within the ink cartridges. Find instructions from HP for doing this at tinyurl.com/printerheads.

Whichever approach you choose, if the red-brown mess is gone, your problem is solved. If cleaning the heads doesn't fix the problem, you can try buying new cartridges.

However, buying a new printer, which comes with new cartridges, may be cheaper than replacing the ink cartridges on your old one, Behrens said. You also may want to consider springing for a laser printer, which costs more initially but may end up being cheaper in the long run. This is especially true if you don't print very much.

You see, the ink in inkjet cartridges is a liquid that dries out over time and must be replaced. Newer printers may even require you to replace all of the cartridges, even if only one is empty. Laser toner, on the other hand, is a powder that'll stick around for thousands of prints.

One last note: When Behrens Googled your printer, he found that its power cord is part of a recall. This could be serious, he said, as power cords tend to be recalled due to concerns about fire. Learn more at www.hp.com/united-states/consumer/ac—cord—recall/direct/index.html.

■■■

Q: Is there any way to get the drop down queries back into Google? For some reason mine have disappeared, and the ones listed are the Web sites I have already been to.

A: Google's autocomplete feature, also known as "Google Suggest," is very helpful. For instance, if you type "new y," it'll offer "New York City," "New York Yankees" and "New York University," saving you time and keystrokes.

Fortunately, turning the feature back on is easy. Go to Google.com and click on "Settings" at the top right of the page. Choose "Search settings" and scroll down to "Query Suggestions." Click the button to "Provide query suggestions," and you're set.

Alternatively, if you don't like getting suggestions, you can disable the feature the same way.

And if you're looking for a laugh, visit autocompleteme.com, a repository of bizarre "Google Suggest" results.

Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.

Life & Style

Akon postpones Sri Lanka tour after Buddha uproar

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—R&B star Akon has postponed a planned concert in Sri Lanka following angry protests over a music video he is in where scantily clad women dance in front of a Buddha statue.

Akon, who expressed regret and said he was not previously aware of the statue in the video, would have been the highest profile international singer to come to this predominately Buddhist, Indian Ocean island since the end of a brutal 25-year civil war last year.

Sri Lanka said Wednesday it would not issue Akon a visa for next month's concert, and his booking firm confirmed the show had been postponed amid growing outrage at the singer here.

A mob on Monday hurled stones at a private broadcaster that was helping sponsor the

Akon

event and a "We Hate Akon" page on Facebook had attracted more than 12,000 members by Wednesday evening.

In the video, "Sexy Chick," women in bikinis are shown dancing at a pool party with a Buddha statue occasionally visible in the background.

The video "triggered a lot of disappointment among Buddhists all over the world," the government said in a statement explaining why it would not give Akon a visa.

Akon said he was "disheartened" to hear of the media attack and didn't mean to offend any religion.

"I was not aware that the statue was even on the set of the video until now. I would never set out to offend or desecrate anyone's religion or religious beliefs," he said in a statement.

Akon's international booking firm, American Talent Agency, said it hoped to reschedule the concert after ensuring the safety of the singer and his fans.

"Akon is looking forward to performing for the people of Sri Lanka and we hope to have this situation resolved in the coming weeks," the agency said in a statement.

Concert promoter Lasantha Samarasinghe said Wednesday he will ask the government to reconsider its decision, adding that the concert would boost tourism and help the country's economy.

Some 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 20 million people are Buddhists, and the faith has guaranteed prominence under the constitution.

Divorce attorney says Dennis Hopper is dying

AP

In this May 22, 2008 file photo, actor Dennis Hopper, left, and his wife Victoria Duffy Hopper arrive at the amfAR's annual Cinema Against AIDS 2008 gala at Le Moulin de Mougins, southern France.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dennis Hopper is terminally ill and unable to undergo chemotherapy as he battles prostate cancer, his attorney wrote in a court filing.

Attorney Joseph Mannis wrote about the "Easy Rider" star's grave condition in a declaration filed Wednesday asserting the actor cannot be questioned by his wife's attorneys in a deposition.

The prognosis contradicts previous filings in the divorce proceedings that were bullish about Hopper's recovery chances.

Hopper, 73, and his wife, Victoria, have been locked in a bitter feud since the actor, director and artist filed to end the couple's nearly 14-year marriage in January.

He weighs barely 100 pounds and was described by his physician Dr. David Agus in the court filing as extremely weak and unable to carry on long conversations.

Agus states that undergoing a deposition "could actually threaten his ability to survive his current health crisis."

The doctor added, however, that he approved an appearance Friday by Hopper to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame because it is likely to be a positive experience.

A phone message seeking comment from Victoria Hopper's attorney, Sorrell Trope, was not immediately returned. Mannis did not return a call seeking further comment.

Hopper filed a declaration last month saying he was undergoing promising chemotherapy treatments and remained hopeful "that this treatment will be successful so that I may soon resume the full enjoyment of my life and work."

Klee stolen from NYC in 1989 is found in Montreal

NEW YORK (AP)—A painting by Swiss artist Paul Klee that was stolen from a New York gallery in 1989 been recovered after a Montreal gallery owner became suspicious and turned it over to U.S. authorities.

Robert Landau turned the 1930 painting, "Portrait in the Garden," by the neo-impressionist artist over to U.S. authorities after a Florida art dealer tried to sell it to him. It had been stolen from the Marlborough Gallery.

"Once we found out it was stolen, we called Homeland Security in Washington," Landau told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "We don't deal in stolen art."

U.S. authorities then handed the painting over to the London-based Art Loss Register, which maintains a 350,000-item database of stolen artworks.

Christopher Marinello, executive director of the Art Loss Register, praised Landau for his actions.

"He was very honorable," Marinello said. "We wish that every dealer were like the Landau Gallery and that they searched before they bought everything." A spokeswoman for the Marlborough Gallery, Janis Gardner Cecil, said the $100,000 painting is now owned by Marlborough's insurer, Lloyd's of London, which will auction it.

AP

This undated photo provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows a painting by Swiss artist Paul Klee that was stolen from a New York gallery more than 20 years ago.

UK police probe death of Shirley Bassey's daughter

LONDON (AP)—British police have reopened their investigation into the 1985 death of singer Shirley Bassey's daughter after detectives received new information that suggested she might have been murdered, they said Tuesday.

Samantha Novak was found face-down in a river near a 250-foot (76.2-meter) suspension bridge in the southwest English city of Bristol 25 years ago. A coroner's report said the 21-year-old tumbled off the riverbank after a night out with friends.

Avon and Somerset Police said the force is making fresh inquiries into the case after the mother of Penny Beale—who was killed by her partner Michael Moffat in 2001—told police her daughter had said Moffat was involved in the death.

"The mother of Moffat's victim wrote to us with some information in the last couple of weeks," police said in a statement. "Her daughter had said that Moffat told her he was involved in the murder of Samantha Novak."

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How To Train Your Dragon
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Gerald Butler, America Ferrera
Children, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
The son of a Viking chief must capture a dragon in order to mark his passage into manhood and prove his worthiness to the tribe in directors Lorna Cook and David Soren's adaptation of Cressida Cowell's popular children's book. Gerard Butler, America Ferrera, Jonah Hill, Jay Baruchel, and Christopher Mintz-Plasse provide the voices for the DreamWorks Animation production.

Hot Tub Time Machine
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:05 7:10 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
John Cusack, Robert Corddry
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
A group of high school pals reunite at an old ski lodge party spot after years of being apart and find that the hot tub has magical time travel powers which teleport them to 1987. John Cusack, Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, and Clark Duke star in the MGM comedy, with Steve Pink directing from a script by Josh Heald.

Repo Men
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:45
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20 9:45
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Jude Law, Forest Whitaker
Science Fiction • Rated R

Diary of Wimpy Kid
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Zachary Gordon, Steven Zahn
Children's, Family • Rated PG

The Green Zone
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
Drama • Rated R

She's Out Of My League
Friday 4:20 9:40
Saturday 4:20 9:40
Sunday 4:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
Comedy • Rated R

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG

Dear John
Friday 7:05
Saturday 1:05 7:05
Sunday 1:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 7:05
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13

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America boots off 2nd 'Idol' finalist of season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The odds weren't in Paige Miles' favor on "American Idol."

The 24-year-old preschool teacher from Houston was the second finalist eliminated from the ninth season of the Fox singing competition Wednesday.

Miles, who warbled through her rendition of Mariah Carey's "Against All Odds" on Tuesday's performance show, received the fewest viewer votes and was not rescued by the show's judges at the last minute.

"I lost myself in the song," Miles confessed earlier in the show.

Joining her in the bottom three were 20-year-old college student Tim Urban of Duncansville, Texas, and 17-year-old high school student Katie Stevens of Middlebury, Conn. Stevens was lauded for her take on Fergie's "Big Girls Don't Cry." while Urban was mocked for sliding across the "Idol" stage during his performance of Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love."

"I thought the knee slide was awesome," gushed Miley Cyrus, who mentored the singers.

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, contestant Paige Miles performs on "American Idol," on Tuesday, March 16, 2010.

The other finalists remaining are Didi Benami, 23, of Los Angeles; Crystal Bowersox, 24, of Toledo, Ohio; Lee Dewyze, 23, of Mount Prospect, Ill.; Andrew Garcia, 24, of Moreno Valley, Calif.; Casey James, 27, of Fort Worth, Texas; Aaron Kelly, 16, of Sonestown, Pa.; Michael Lynche, 26, of Astoria, N.Y.; and Siobhan Magnus, 20, of Marstons Mills, Mass.

KC and Sunshine Band founder held on Ohio sex rap

NEWARK, Ohio (AP)—A music producer and co-founder of KC and the Sunshine Band responsible for such hits as "Shake Your Booty" and "Keep It Comin' Love" has acknowledged having sex with teenage boys, police said Wednesday.

Richard R. Finch, 56, was arrested Tuesday after a boy told authorities he'd had sexual contact with him at Finch's home in Newark, the Licking County sheriff's office said. The boy made the revelation last week.

Finch, while being interviewed at the sheriff's office, admitted he'd had sex with that boy and others ranging in age from 13 to 17, police said.

Finch, a former bass player for the band and a seven-time Grammy Award winner, was being held Wednesday at the sheriff's office on $250,000 bond.

A message posted on the Web site of Richard Finch Productions Inc. said the allegations against the producer were baseless.

Prince looks like pauper in Minnesota tax records

CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Prince looks like a pauper in a list of delinquent taxpayers in Minnesota.

Carver County tax records show the musician's PRN Music Corp. owes more than $227,000 for 2009 taxes to the state and other government bodies. The county is southwest of Minneapolis.

PRN Music houses Prince's Paisley Park Studios in Chanhassen. County records list several other properties under his full name, Prince R. Nelson, as delinquent.

County taxpayer services manager Laurie Engelen estimates PRN Music and Prince's other properties owe about $450,000 in taxes.

PRN and Prince's studios don't have listed phone numbers. A talent agency that has represented Prince didn't immediately respond to e-mail seeking comment.

The delinquency list was published last week in the Chaska Herald.

Megan Mullally leaves Broadway's 'Lips Together'

NEW YORK (AP)—It's "Lips Together, Actress Departs."

Megan Mullally has abruptly left the cast of the upcoming Broadway revival of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," Terrence McNally's comedy about two married couples sharing a Fourth of July weekend at a Fire Island beach house.

"We were surprised and disappointed that Megan Mullally had to withdraw from the production immediately in breach of her contract," Todd Haimes, artistic director of the Roundabout Theatre Company, said Wednesday in a statement.

Mullally could not immediately be reached for comment by telephone, but the Web site Deadline Hollywood reported she was unhappy working with director Joe Mantello, one of the New York theater's most sought-after directors.

"With the loss of Megan in a four-person ensemble, work has been delayed after only two weeks of rehearsal," Haimes added. "We have wanted Joe Mantello to direct this comedy since he staged a reading for us three years ago."

Mullally's replacement is expected to be named shortly, and while the first preview performance will be delayed—it originally was set for April 9—Haimes said the April 29 opening night date will remain the same.

Mullally is best known for playing Karen Walker on the television sitcom "Will & Grace." She was last on Broadway in Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," in 2007.

AP

In this Jan. 16, 2009 file photo, actress Megan Mullally participates in a panel discussion at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Suge Knight sought after LA rapper robbery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police want to talk to Suge Knight after a rapper initially accused the former Death Row Records chief of robbing him before recanting the story. Detective Jeff Briscoe says 35-year-old Jerold Ellis, who uses the name Yukmouth, reported he was talking to Knight on Monday night in a Woodland Hills supermarket parking lot about a debt that another rapper allegedly owes Knight. Yukmouth filed a police report saying 10 other men arrived, knocked him down and took his watch, medallion and other jewelry worth $92,000. He wasn't badly hurt and declined medical treatment. Briscoe says Ellis identified Knight as a suspect but later recanted. However, the stolen items haven't been recovered and the investigation continues. The Associated Press couldn't immediately reach Knight for comment.

Katherine Heigl checks out of 'Grey's Anatomy'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Heigl is done with "Grey's Anatomy" after six seasons. ABC said Wednesday that Heigl's final appearance in the medical drama aired Jan. 21, four months before the show's season finale in May. Her departure was first reported online by Entertainment Weekly. ABC Studios said Heigl was ending her run as Dr. Izzie Stevens by "mutual agreement." Heigl told Entertainment Weekly that she asked to be let out of her contract 18 months early because of her new role as mother to an adopted daughter. The 31-year-old actress is married to singer-songwriter Josh Kelley. Heigl launched a successful movie career during her tenure on "Grey's Anatomy," including the box-office hit "Knocked Up."

Octuplets mom accepts offer to help save home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just because Nadya Suleman's an octomom doesn't mean she wants your dog or cat to become one, too. Her lawyer said Wednesday that Suleman, who is fighting to keep her house from foreclosure, has agreed to allow People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals to put a sign in her front yard proclaiming, "Don't Let Your Dog or Cat Become an Octomom. Always Spay or Neuter." Peta says it offered Suleman $5,000 and a month's supply of veggie burgers and hot dogs in exchange for placing the sign in front of her house in La Habra. Suleman's lawyer, Jeff Czech, said his client has accepted the offer. Meanwhile, Czech said, he is negotiating to refinance a $450,000 balloon payment on her home that was due two weeks ago.

Medic's battlefield decision now continues to haunt him

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a medic in the Middle East. I was out on patrol with some of our guys when we were hit with a mortar attack. More than one guy was wounded.

I ran to the first guy and saw that he was hit. He had a wound I knew he wouldn't be able to survive. He pulled a letter from his pocket, put it in my hands and pushed me away. I tried to apply pressure to his wound to slow the bleeding, but he pushed me away again. It was like he was telling me to go to the next man who needed my attention. Everyone survived except him.

At first, I thought I did the right thing by respecting his wishes to help someone I could save. When I got back and talked to his family, they were angry at me for not trying harder to save his life. When I signed up for this job, I knew I wouldn't be able to save everyone, but I am supposed to try my best no matter who it is I am saving.

Was I wrong by going to another man who I could save? Was it wrong of me to take his letter and leave him after he pushed me away twice? Please tell me what you think.

DOC IN DISTRESS

DEAR DOC: I think you were doing the best you could in an impossible situation. Your patient may have instinctively known he was not going to make it—which is why he gave you the letter. Of course the family was angry that you couldn't save their loved one—they are grieving. I urge you to talk to a counselor about what happened and the feelings of guilt you're experiencing. In a situation like the one in which you found yourself, wrenching choices sometimes have to be made. Please stop second-guessing yourself.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father is in the early stages of Alzheimer's. While at a family party, my stepmother started talking about how she and Dad had just visited their friends, the Royal Family in England. I assume she thought she was being funny. My poor father was completely confused, but my stepmother continued on with the charade. We all felt uncomfortable and didn't know how to handle the situation. The grandkids felt bad for Grandpop.

I recently learned that my stepmother pretended her friend was his daughter. Dad is confused enough without having to be tricked in this manner. My stepmother is a very complex, challenging woman, and I need to handle this matter very carefully. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

SAD ABOUT DAD IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SAD: Your stepmother is not only "complex and challenging," she has a twisted sense of humor. Ridiculing someone with dementia is cruel and, in my opinion, qualifies as elder abuse. As to "tricking" your father into thinking her friend was his daughter, I wish you had mentioned what she was trying to accomplish by doing that. Your father—and his assets—may need protection. Please consider discussing this with a social worker who specializes in senior services.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband doesn't like his sister. When he drinks beer, he says ugly things about her and starts to cry. When I said she's his only sister and to cut it out, he closed his hands into fists.

I twice tried calling her at 1 a.m., after he fell asleep. Well, our phone bill arrived and her phone number is on it. He's the one who gets the mail, so please answer this in the paper. The bill is due in 10 days.

PEACEMAKER IN FLORIDA

DEAR PEACEMAKER: If your husband is the one who pays the bills, fess up while he's sober, because it appears he doesn't handle his beer very well. And from now on, respect his boundaries because there may be good reason why he and his sister are on the outs.

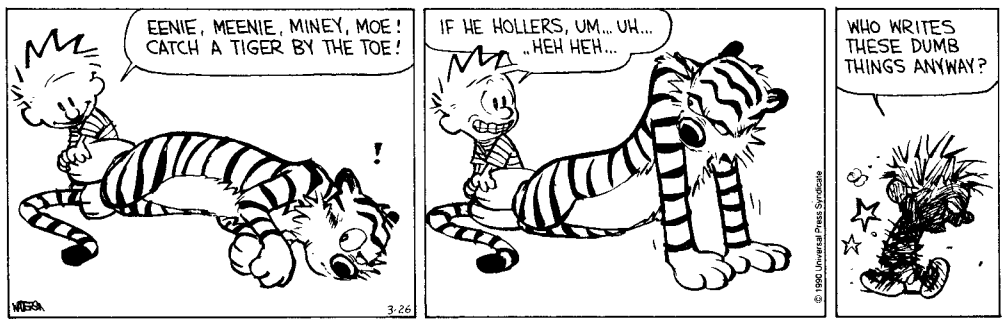
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


EENIE, MEENIE, MINEY, MOE! CATCH A TIGER BY THE TOE!
IF HE HOLLERS, UM... UH... ..HEH HEH...
WHO WRITES THESE DUMB THINGS ANYWAY?
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU AREN'T SO TOUGH
JIM DAVIS 3-26
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OH, WHAT A TERRIBLE THING TO SAY!
BOO HOO HOO!
OOOKAAAYY, YOU'RE TOUGH
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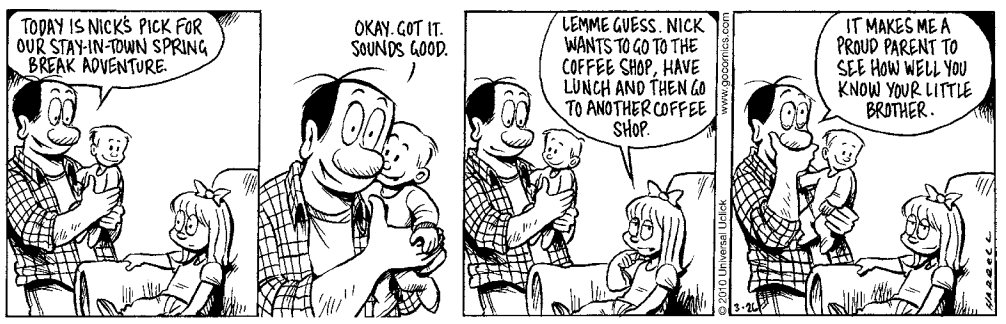
By Bryan Basset


TODAY IS NICK'S PICK FOR OUR STAY-IN-TOWN SPRING BREAK ADVENTURE.
OKAY. GOT IT. SOUNDS GOOD.
LEMME GUESS. NICK WANTS TO GO TO THE COFFEE SHOP, HAVE LUNCH AND THEN GO TO ANOTHER COFFEE SHOP.
IT MAKES ME A PROUD PARENT TO SEE HOW WELL YOU KNOW YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
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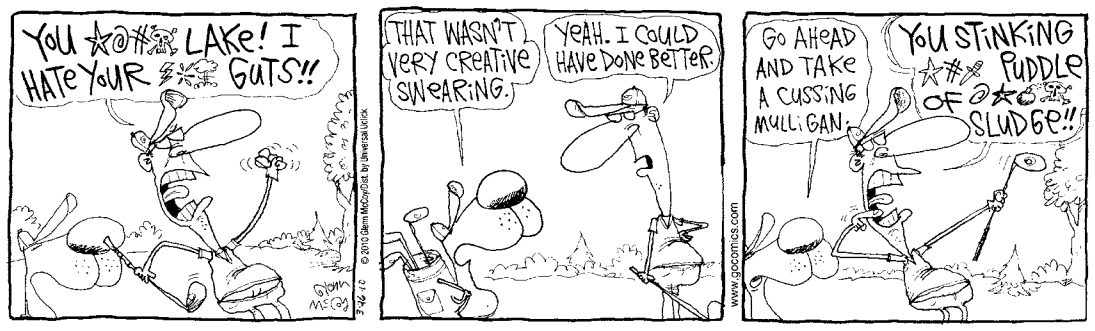
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU ☆@#% LAKE! I HATE YOUR ☆#% GUTS!!
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick 3-26
THAT WASN'T VERY CREATIVE SWEARING.
YEAH. I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER.
GO AHEAD AND TAKE A CUSSING MULLIGAN.
YOU STINKING ☆#% PUDDLE OF ☆☆☆ SLUDGE!!
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

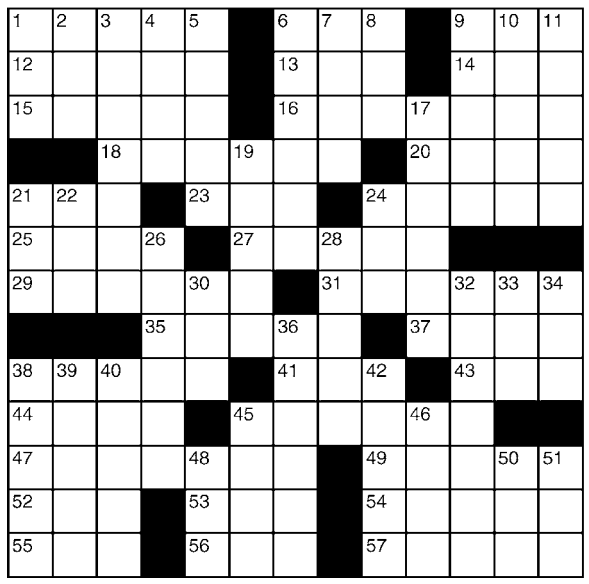
ACROSS
1 Hickory nut
6 Swindle
9 Timetable abbr.
12 Rib
13 Big bother
14 Place-kicker's pride
15 Change
16 Bungle
18 Pricey appetizer
20 Kennedy matriarch
21 Bonfire residue
23 Thither
24 Arts supporter?
25 Quarterback Flutie
27 Delicious
29 Wool provider
31 Rough with small waves
35 Stair part
37 Houston acronym
38 Senses
41 Journey segment
43 Gratuity
44 "— Ask of You"
45 Erse
47 Popular condiment
49 Temporary, as a committee
52 Rock producer Brian
53 Foolish sort
54 Drink loudly
55 Former veep Quayle
56 Most common English word
57 Dividing membranes

DOWN
1 Sch. org.
2 Wet wriggler
3 Acquire parity
4 Over the bounding main
5 Brash
6 Poolside shelter
7 Stench
8 Denier's word
9 Pal of d'Artagnan
10 Stir to action
11 Ward off
17 Coloring stick
19 Tittles
21 Oklahoma city
22 Scale member
24 Ordinal suffix
26 Vampire thwarter
28 Pile of rocks near a hill
30 Opposite of "trans-"
32 Mend
33 Omega preceder
34 Mouth, slangily
36 Pass
38 Photo-shopped, maybe
39 Dementieva of tennis
40 Rock legend John
42 Tumbler
45 Jet forth
46 Between jobs
48 Chapeau
50 Table scrap
51 IRS employee

Solution time: 25 mins.

R	U	N	G		F	A	Y		A	F	A	R
A	S	E	A		O	H	O		M	O	V	E
P	E	R	U		R	A	Y		B	R	E	D
T	R	O	C	H	E		O	G	L	E	R	S
				H	E	N			E	E	L	
I	N	F	O		O	F	F	E	R	I	N	G
T	O	O			O	O	O			M	I	A
S	T	R	A	I	N	E	R		A	B	B	Y
			E	L	M			E	T	C		
A	C	C	E	P	T		H	O	R	R	O	R
C	L	A	P		A	L	A		O	H	I	O
M	E	S	H		P	E	N		S	E	N	T
E	F	T	S		S	A	D		S	A	K	E

Yesterday's answer 3-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keira Knightley, 25; Kenny Chesney, 42; Martin Short, 60; Diana Ross, 66

Happy Birthday: An opportunity to make personal changes and to alter your lifestyle is apparent—follow through, regardless of what others want. There are deals to be signed and money to be made if you follow your path and refuse to let anyone sidetrack you. Believe in yourself and your talent and you will not be disappointed. Your numbers are 5, 7, 15, 23, 25, 31, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You need a little lighthearted fun to help chill you out and ease your stress. Get involved in activities that challenge you physically and take your mind off any burdens you carry. A love interest will play an important role in a personal decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Mixing business with pleasure will pay off in terms of an offer you receive. Take advantage, even if it means putting in extra hours. Uncertainties will arise if you are not willing to go the extra mile. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you lean toward expensive entertainment or people who overindulge or overspend, you will end up in a vulnerable, financial position. A little resourcefulness is all it will take to win praise and favors. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A job prospect looks good. Make some changes to the way you present your services and you will attract better offers. A love relationship will be passionate but, if you complain, you will face someone's dissatisfaction. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do something you enjoy with someone you love or, if you are single, an activity or event conducive to meeting a new love interest. You should update your look or dress a little upscale and you will meet people who can offer you some interesting alternatives. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't leave any important matters undone. Make whatever financial or personal changes necessary or you will be faced with a costly penalty. Talk to agencies or whoever is in charge. A wait-and-see attitude will not pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Spend time nurturing business or personal relationships. If you are willing to talk and compromise, you can build a much stronger bond that allows you to accomplish that much more as a team. Don't limit your options. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): An unusual event will bring you in contact with someone who can offer you a change of lifestyle. Make sure what you are being offered is something you truly want. A wrong move will be an expensive mistake. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Say what you mean and mean what you say. Trying to hide something or evading issues will create situations that are out of your control. Sometimes truth hurts but it's still better than leading someone on. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take a second look and you will discover how to avoid controversy that will hold you back. Make a few changes that will accommodate friends, family or neighbors who might give you a hard time or slow you down. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can lean on someone who has helped you in the past and, in doing so, discover something you can offer in return. Love is in the stars and someone who is just as eager to try new things as you are will make a proposal you cannot refuse. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may want to work a little harder and longer in order to accomplish your goals. Taking on too much may seem like a problem but, if you finish what you start, it will lead to bigger and better opportunities. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-minded and eager to experience all life has to offer. You are creative, caring and willing to help anyone.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3						1
					8	6		
5		8			9		7	
					7	8	5	
	6	9	4					
	4		1			3		7
		6	5					
1						2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	6	8	3	9	2	7	4
4	2	3	7	1	6	9	5	8
8	7	9	2	5	4	1	3	6
1	8	4	5	9	7	6	2	3
9	3	7	6	2	1	4	8	5
2	6	5	4	8	3	7	1	9
6	9	2	3	7	5	8	4	1
7	5	1	9	4	8	3	6	2
3	4	8	1	6	2	5	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE MANY FORMS OF WATER **Solution: 6 letters**

D	N	O	P	L	R	A	E	L	C	S	E	B	U	C
E	C	O	M	P	O	U	N	D	P	R	A	V	O	K
H	L	S	I	C	O	L	O	R	I	V	U	L	A	S
A	A	E	A	T	M	Y	E	E	A	T	D	O	T	W
R	B	I	M	E	U	S	F	P	L	E	S	A	P	Y
D	I	L	L	E	S	L	O	I	Z	P	T	I	H	(B)
Q	I	T	U	U	N	R	O	I	D	E	P	Y	(O)	W
E	S	U	R	E	U	T	L	S	V	I	D	(I)	E	M
S	P	E	L	G	Z	L	S	L	F	R	(L)	T	R	N
N	L	L	I	F	A	E	O	T	O	L	N	O	E	S
E	A	I	L	T	N	S	E	G	E	E	O	G	S	W
D	S	E	S	I	S	I	E	R	S	A	Y	A	O	A
N	H	Y	C	I	P	N	A	S	F	X	M	N	T	H
O	R	I	D	O	D	S	D	R	O	P	S	O	F	T
C	H	E	M	I	S	T	R	Y	T	I	S	N	E	D

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Blue, Boil, Chemistry, Clear, Cold, Color, Compound, Condense, Crystallized, Cubes, Density, Dissolve, Drops, Elements, Fill, Float, Fluid, Freeze, Gases, Hail, Hard, Hydrogen, Iciness, Mass, Melt, Moist, Ocean, Oxygen, Pond, Pour, Pressure, Rain, Ripple, Salty, Seas, Snow, Soak, Soft, Solidify, Solution, Spill, Splash, State, Steam, Thaw, Tide, Vapor, Wave, Wetness

Yesterday's Answer: Pump

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

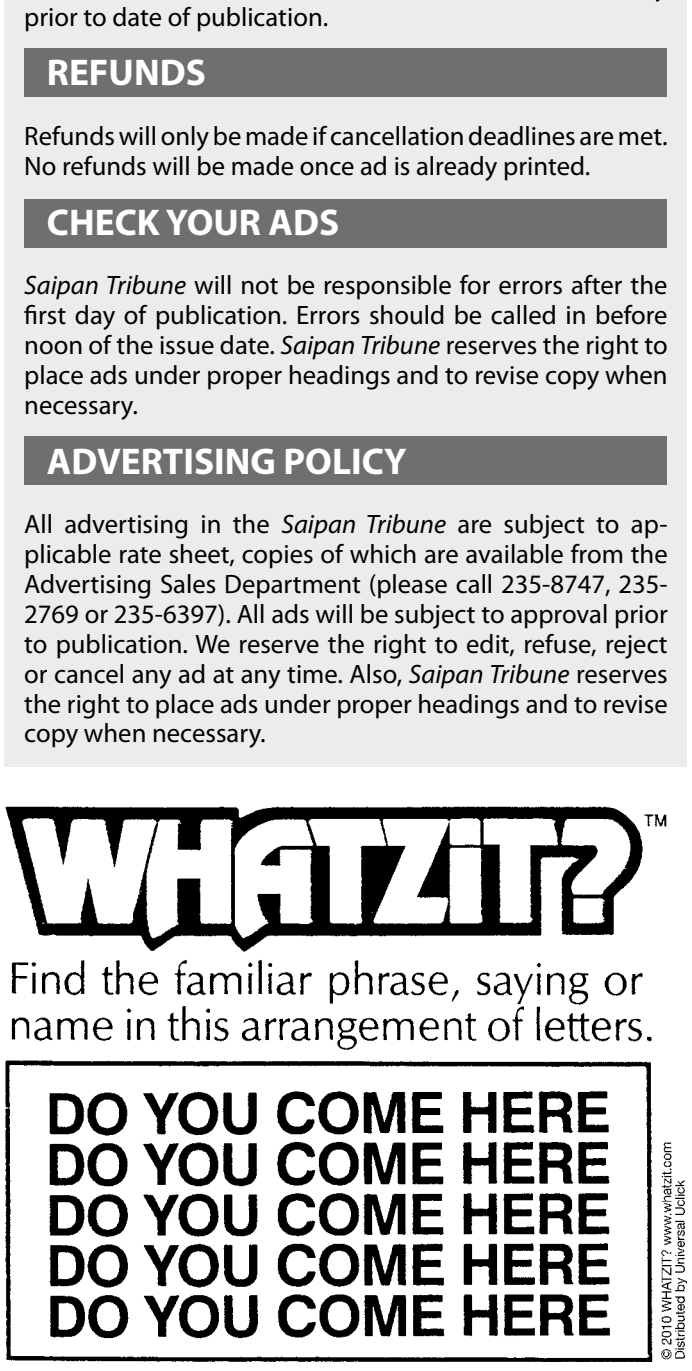
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
DO YOU COME HERE
DO YOU COME HERE
DO YOU COME HERE
DO YOU COME HERE
DO YOU COME HERE
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Distributed by Universal Uclick

Find today's solution in this section

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 4:00pm - 9:00pm

FOR SALE
CONSTRUCTION CO. & RESTAURANT
GOOD RECORD
Please call 483-1123

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For $210.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 br concrete house located in Chalan Piao beach fully fenced. $350.00 (does not include utilities) Call Mr. D.B. Mercado at 288-3571 or 286-3571

WHATZIT Solution:
Do you come here often

JOB VACANCY

J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

SUPERVISOR

Please apply in person at the
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe
Monday to Friday, 8a.m. - 5p.m.

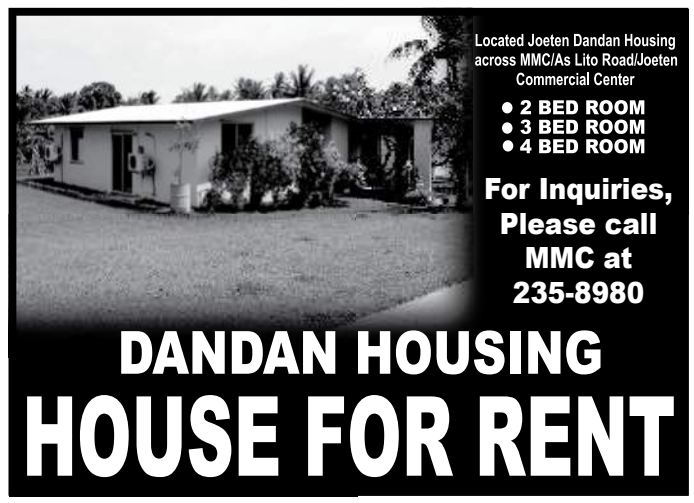
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

OFFICE FURNITURE

Office Desks, Chairs, Shelves and Drawers.

Available for inspection anytime

Please submit your bids via the following:
Email: rowena@bccnmi.com
Fax: 322-2323
Contact: 322-2222 for details


Located Joeten Dandan Housing across MMC/As Lito Road/Joeten Commercial Center
● 2 BED ROOM
● 3 BED ROOM
● 4 BED ROOM
For Inquiries, Please call MMC at 235-8980
DANDAN HOUSING
HOUSE FOR RENT

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
SPARKLE
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v-. The Estate of FRANCISCO SEMAN IBA, Deceased, and MARGARITA BORJA IBA, Defendants. | CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0008 | SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 021 T 48, situated in San Jose Village, Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an are of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 021 T 02, the original of which was registerd with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No. 84-1597 on August 15, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 16, 2010, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at The Courthouse in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 18th day of February 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DIEGO SN DELA CRUZ and LEOLANIE R. DELA CRUZ, Defendants. | Civil Action No. 06-0331-CV

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Date: April 15, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: David Wiseman

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 15th day of April, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge David A. Wiseman on Plaintiff's Motion For an Order of Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. WILLIAM DLG ANGUI and JESSIE A. AGUI, Defendants. | Civil Action No. 06-0590-CV

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON MOTION FOR AN ORDER OF SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

Date: April 15, 2010
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: David Wiseman

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 15th day of April, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge David A. Wiseman on Plaintiff's Motion For an Order of Sale of Mortgaged Property in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, *Guma Hustisia,* Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2010.

/s/Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG, Defendants. | Civil Action No. 09-0407

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS, KYLE E.M. ULECHONG and JENNIFER N.W. ULECHONG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susuper Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the Complaint for Foreclosure by Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, a default will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Petition, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 25th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW10-RFP-007

ROUTE 10 HAZARD ELIMINATION PROJECT, ROTA CM-NH-0010 (002)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Route 10 Hazard Elimination Project, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).**

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization **(COA)** from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **March 19, 2010** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **April 7, 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 23, 2010**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) **– 25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) **– 30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) **– 25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) **– 20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-007"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 28, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose.** Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 28, 2010** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 28, 2010** and must be received no later than **May 7, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Aquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-GOV-082

PREPARATION of ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
A Site Location and Conceptual Design of a Solid Waste Transfer Station on Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Tinian Tranfer Station to be located on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the EA services required will be available on Friday, March 12, 2010, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 1:30 PM,Wednesday, March 31, 2010 (Saipan local time). Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. N. Stanley Good, CIP Project Manager, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., Saipan local time April 9, 2010.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed thirty (30) pages in length. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant qualification and experience of the firm, personnel and staff - 50%
   Include sufficient information to identify previous experience and the effectiveness of proposer on similar projects. List, at minimum, all similar projects conducted in the previous five (5) years. As there are a number of disciplines required in provision of this service, a specific listing of proposed sub-contractors, and their roles, is required as a part of any submittal. The relevant qualifications of these sub-contractors shall be considered in the rating

2. Ability to commit resources to the project - 25%
   As the CNMI feels this project is time dependant, a specific description of how the proposer would meet the schedule and what resources would be committed to the project is required. Proposal shall identify assigned staff, their roles and time committed to the project.

3. Suggested Approach - 25%
   The proposer shall provide a description of the proposed approach that will be used to complete the environmental assessment. Information provided should establish the proposers familirity with requirements for completion of an EA and show the method and schedule for completion of these requirements.

4. Proposed Costs to perform the EA report work - 0%

Performance time for completion of the EA design is three hundred eight (308) calendar days (44 weeks) upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed to submission of the Final Report as described in the Scope of Work document. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP10- GOV-082, Environmental Assessment Report for the Tinian Transfer Station"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 14, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan local time, April 14, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 14, 2010, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 23, 2010 (Saipan local time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) . Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) REPORT
SANITARY LANDFILL, ROTA
RFP10-GOV-075

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Rota Sanitary Landfill to be located on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the EA services required will be available on Friday, March 05, 2010, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 10:00 AM,Wednesday, March 17, 2010 (Saipan local time). Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. N. Stanley Good, CIP Project Manager, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., Saipan local time March 24, 2010.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed thirty (30) pages in length. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant qualification and experience of the firm, personnel and staff - 50%
   Include sufficient information to identify previous experience and the effectiveness of proposer on similar projects. List, at minimum, all similar projects conducted in the previous five (5) years. As there are a number of disciplines required in provision of this service, a specific listing of proposed sub-contractors, and their roles, is required as a part of any submittal. The relevant qualifications of these sub-contractors shall be considered in the rating

2. Ability to commit resources to the project - 25%
   As the CNMI feels this project is time dependant, a specific description of how the proposer would meet the schedule and what resources would be committed to the project is required. Proposal shall identify assigned staff, their roles and time committed to the project.

3. Suggested Approach - 25%
   The proposer shall provide a description of the proposed approach that will be used to complete the environmental assessment. Information provided should establish the proposers familirity with requirements for completion of an EA and show the method and schedule for completion of these requirements.

4. Proposed Costs to perform the EA report work - 0%

Performance time for completion of the EA design is three hundred eight (308) calendar days (44 weeks) upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed to submission of the Final Report as described in the Scope of Work document. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$250.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP10- GOV-075, Environmental Assessment Report for the Rota Sanitary Landfill"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 05, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan local time, April 05, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 05, 2010, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 14, 2010 (Saipan local time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) . Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Acting Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-087

Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building and Elevator Installation Project

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Building and Elevator Installation Project, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Wednesday, April 07, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time on April 14, 2010 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvement, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-087"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 27, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time April 27, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 27, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. May 06, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, May 06, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on April 27, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred twenty **(120)** calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Smith dunk at buzzer leads Hawks past Magic

ATLANTA (AP)—Josh Smith swooped in to slam through Joe Johnson's missed shot just ahead of the buzzer as the Atlanta Hawks finally beat the Orlando Magic to clinch a third straight trip to the playoffs with an 86-84 victory Wednesday.

Vince Carter led Orlando with 20 points, while Dwight Howard chipped in with another monster performance: 19 points and a season-high 24 rebounds. Johnson led six Atlanta players in double figures with 17 points, while Smith scored 15.

Hawks sixth man Jamal Crawford will be heading to the playoffs for the first time in his decade-long career. He came into the night having played 666 games without making it to the postseason, the third-longest drought in NBA history.

AP

Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith (5) and Joe Johnson (2) celebrate after Smith's game-winning basket at the buzzer to defeat the Orlando Magic 86-84 in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 24, 2010, in Atlanta.

Nets 93, Kings 79

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Brook Lopez had 26 points and 13 rebounds as New Jersey beat Sacramento to snap an eight-game losing streak and a franchise-record, 14-game skid at home.

Devin Harris added 24 points and nine assists for the Nets (8-63), who need to win once in their last 11 games to avoid breaking the league mark for fewest wins in a season (9-73), set by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1972-73.

Nets interim coach Kiki Vandeweghe guided the team despite learning of the death of his mother, former Miss America Colleen Kay Hutchins, earlier in the day.

Beno Udrih had 19 points for the Kings, who lost the eighth time in 11 games.

Celtics 113, Nuggets 99

At Boston, Paul Pierce scored 27 points and Kevin Garnett had 20 as Boston clinched a playoff berth with a victory over Denver.

Boston led by 21 points twice in the third quarter before Denver cut the lead to 87-80 going into the fourth. But the Celtics stayed ahead by seven to 16 the rest of the way for their fifth win in six games. Rajon Rondo had a triple-double with 11 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds.

Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points and J.R. Smith added 21 as the Nuggets lost their third straight.

Lakers 92, Spurs 83

At San Antonio, Kobe Bryant was Bryant who put the Spurs away for good. He scored 10 in the fourth quarter, including two backbreaking 3-pointers that San Antonio couldn't shake off.

Manu Ginobili scored 24 points and George Hill had 21, but the Spurs got little help from anyone else.

76ers 101, Bucks 86

At Milwaukee, rookie Jrue Holiday had 15 points and seven assists as Philadelphia snapped Milwaukee's longest home winning streak in six years at eight games.

Instead, Samuel Dalembert had 12 points and 10 rebounds, Willie Green scored 16 points and Andre Iguodala 14 as the Sixers poured it on for their third win in the last 16 games.

Cavaliers 105, Hornets 92

At New Orleans, LeBron James scored an efficient 38 points on 15-of-22 shooting to go with nine assists as Cleveland won its eighth straight game.

J.J. Hickson scored 20 for the Cavs, who led by as many as 17 and never trailed after James' floater tied it at 10 in the first quarter. Delonte West added 15 points and Antawn Jamison had 11 points and 11 rebounds as Cleveland won its 27th straight over a team with a losing record.

Marcus Thornton scored 20 points and Darren Collison added 17 for the Hornets. David West added 16 points.

Thunder 122, Rockets 104

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 25 points and James Harden added 23 points off the bench while returning from an injury as Oklahoma City beat Houston.

Luis Scola scored 25 and Trevor Ariza added 20 points for Houston, which fell seven games behind Oklahoma City and 5 1/2 behind eighth-place Portland in the Western Conference.

Bobcats 108, Timberwolves 95

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Stephen Jackson shook off a sore hand and busted out of his shooting slump with 37 points, leading Charlotte past Minnesota to send the reeling Timberwolves to their 14th straight loss.

Gerald Wallace added 23 points as the Bobcats shot 54 percent from the field and moved into sixth place in the Eastern Conference with their sixth straight home win.

Jazz 113, Raptors 87

At Toronto, Deron Williams had 18 points, 16 assists and eight rebounds to lead Utah over Toronto.

Carlos Boozer added 18 points and 11 rebounds, while Mehmet Okur and rookie Wesley Matthews had 16 points apiece for the Jazz, who won their third straight. Seven Jazz players finished with at least 12 points.

Chris Bosh celebrated his 26th birthday with a 20-point performance for the Raptors.

Pacers 99, Wizards 82

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 31 points to help Indiana beat Washington and extend the Wizards' losing streak to a franchise record-tying 13 games.

Andray Blatche started for the Wizards a night after he was benched for most of the game following a spat with coach Flip Saunders. He finished with 21 points in 39 minutes.

The Wizards last lost 13 straight in 1995. They can set a record for futility Friday at Charlotte.

Warriors 128, Grizzlies 110

At Oakland, California, Stephen Curry had 30 points and 11 assists, and Reggie Williams scored 23 points as Golden State damaged Memphis' playoff hopes.

Monta Ellis added 21 points for the Warriors. Corey Maggette and Anthony Tolliver each had 12 points and Chris Hunter, making his sixth start, recorded his first career double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Rudy Gay had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies. O.J. Mayo and Mike Conley each added 21 points, and Zach Randolph finished with 16 points and five rebounds before leaving in the third quarter with a sore left ankle.

Dwight Gooden charged with driving on drugs in NJ

FRANKLIN LAKES, N.J. (AP)—Former Major League Baseball star Dwight Gooden has been charged with driving under the influence of drugs and leaving the scene of an accident.

The former pitcher for the New York Mets and New York Yankees had a child in his vehicle at the time of the two-vehicle crash around 9 a.m. Tuesday, Franklin Lakes police Capt. Joseph Seltenrich said.

Police wouldn't say whose child it was, but they said no one was hurt.

Gooden also was charged with child endangerment and motor vehicle violations, authorities said. They wouldn't release details, including the type of drugs.

Gooden, 45, was released on his own recognizance until a municipal court hearing. It was unclear whether Gooden, who has waged a well-publicized battle with alcohol and drugs, including cocaine, had an attorney.

The driver of the other car, Ronald Schmidt, of Franklin Lakes, said he recognized Gooden right away.

"I looked at him, and I knew it was Dwight Gooden," Schmidt told WABC-TV in New York. "I think he was surprised I recognized him, (and) he shook my hand."

Gooden, nicknamed Doc Gooden and Dr. K because of his phenomenal strikeout numbers early in his career, had served as a senior vice president with the minor league Newark Bears baseball team, which plays in the Atlantic League. But he left in November 2009 when the Mets invited him to join them at spring training, an offer he ultimately turned down.

"He did great things while he was here," said Tom Cetnar, the Bears' senior vice president. "We're very saddened by the reports we're hearing. We don't have any details on what happened. Doc did right by us and the city of Newark."

Mets spokesman Jay Horowitz said the team "was aware of the situation," but he declined to comment further.

Gooden's dominant pitching helped lead the Mets to a World Series title in 1986 and another National League East crown in '88, and he also was a member of the championship Yankees teams of 1996 and 2000. After making his major league debut in 1984 at the age of 19, he went on to win the Rookie of the Year award that season and eventually won 194 games over his 17-year career, which included a no-hitter for the Yankees in 1996.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi, who played with Gooden and caught his no-hitter, said he hoped everything was OK with his former teammate.

"Your heart goes out to him," Girardi said in Tampa, Fla. "He was a great teammate. Doc and I will always be linked in a sense, played on championship teams and a no-hitter together."

But drugs and legal troubles derailed his career and continued after his retirement in 2001. He was arrested several times and repeatedly entered rehabilitation facilities.

Besides the two New York teams, Gooden also pitched for Cleveland, Houston and Tampa Bay.

NFL passes player safety rules

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—NFL players should be safer during games thanks to several rules changes passed at the league meetings. They also might be playing longer in regular-season overtimes.

The NFL passed rules Wednesday to further protect defenseless players, including ball carriers who lose their helmet during a play. Seven of eight overall rules proposals were adopted, then several owners said they also expect the modified overtime for the playoffs that passed the previous day to be revisited in May to include the regular season.

"It's a better system, so why not have a better system every game?" Philadelphia Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said of expanding the new OT rule that allows a team losing the coin toss and allowing a field goal on the first series to then get a possession.

New York Giants owner John Mara added he expects discussion and possibly a vote on using the new OT system to occur at the owners meetings in Dallas in May. The change was proposed only for the postseason by the competition committee and was passed 28-4 Tuesday.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league wants to meet with the players and the networks for some input and further discuss the ramifications of expanding the OT change.

"We had a proposal for the postseason, we passed that with the understanding that it'll be discussed for the regular season," he said.

Goodell also mentioned scheduling only intradivision games on the final weekend of the season, and placing many such games in Week 16, as well. He said at the end of last season he was concerned about teams not playing their regulars after clinching titles and is hopeful such scheduling would help avoid that.

The 2010 schedule will be released in April.

The key rules change for player safety bars a defenseless player from being hit in the head or neck area by an opponent who launches himself and uses his helmet, shoulder or forearm to make contact. Previously, those kind of tackles were banned against receivers who couldn't protect themselves, but now it will apply to everyone.

"These are very specific to very vulnerable moments in the game," Lurie said. "There's no reason not to protect these players. There's a history of potentially serious injuries in these types of collisions."

NFL rules also will now echo those in college when a player running with the ball loses his helmet. The whistle will blow immediately and the ball will be placed at the "progress spot" where the helmet came off.

The umpire now will be stationed behind the offensive backfield rather than in the linebackers area after the competition committee saw "a hundred" examples of umpires being run over.

Also passed Wednesday:

■ During a field goal or extra point attempt, the defensive team can't position any player on the line directly across from the snapper. Previously, a player needed to have his helmet outside the snapper's shoulder pads.

■ A dead ball personal foul on the final play of the second or fourth quarters will cause a 15-yard penalty on the second half or overtime kickoff. Previously in those situations, no penalty was enforced, although players subsequently could be fined by Goodell.

■ If a punt returner makes a fair catch signal and muffs the ball, he is entitled to "reasonable opportunity" to catch the muff before it hits the ground without interference of the coverage team. The ball will be rewarded at the spot of the interference, but there will be no penalty yardage marked off.

■ When a ball strikes a videoboard (as one punt did last preseason at the new Cowboys Stadium), guide wire or sky cam, the play is whistled dead and replayed. The game clock is reset to when that play started.

The replay judge will be allowed to initiate a review if he believes there was some sort of interference with the ball. This is the only case outside of the final two minutes of the second and fourth quarters and overtime that the booth can order a replay.

Coaches can also challenge whether there was interference with the ball.

-If the clock is stopped in the final minute of either half for a replay review, but would not have stopped without the review, officials will run off 10 seconds before resuming play. Either team could take a timeout to void the 10-second runoff.

Tiger to hold first press conference at Masters

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods will speak before he plays in the Masters.

Woods is scheduled to hold his first press conference in nearly five months at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 5, according to a tentative interview schedule that Augusta National released Wednesday.

It will be his first press conference in nearly five months, and his first time facing a room full of reporters since he crashed his SUV into a tree on Nov. 27, setting off shocking revelations of rampant infidelity.

The Masters only recently began conducting a press conference on Monday of tournament week, usually a player with only moderate news interest because most of the media isn't there yet.

Woods is the only player scheduled for an interview that day. Given the sensational nature of his downfall, what he says could trump the NCAA basketball championship game held later that night.

"Our focus that Monday will be on crowning the next national champion," NCAA spokesman Erik Christianson said.

Arnold Palmer, one of the most popular players in golf history, suggested that Woods be more open with reporters.

"It's up to him to do and say whatever he feels he needs to do to redeem the situation, put it in the proper place," Palmer said. " ... I suppose the best thing he could do would be open up and just let you guys shoot at him. And that's just my thought."

The last time Woods held a press conference was Nov. 15 after he won the Australian Masters in Melbourne for his 82nd career victory. His middle-of-the-night accident occurred 12 days later.

Woods typically has his press conference at the majors on Tuesday.

Among those scheduled to speak the day after Woods are Phil Mickelson, Geoff Ogilvy and Jack Nicklaus.

Boeheim: Onuaku out for Orange against Butler

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Syracuse center Arinze Onuaku will not play Thursday against Butler in the West Regional semifinal.

Orange coach Jim Boeheim says the 6-foot-9 center is doing better but will not be available for the Butler game. Onuaku has an injured right quadriceps. Boeheim didn't speculate on whether Onuaku would be able to play Saturday if the team advances.

Onuaku averaged 10.5 points and 5.1 rebounds this season for Syracuse, which defeated Vermont by 23 and Gonzaga by 22 points without the center in the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament.

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Ur Balls nips Lancheros in extra inning

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ur Balls survived a scare from Lancheros, pulling off a 9-5 win during their game in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Ur Balls needed extra inning to nail the come-from-behind win, their 11th in 14 games.

A four-run top of the eighth inning allowed Ur Balls to steal the game after the regulation ended in a deadlock, 5-all.

Lancheros, who dropped to a 3-10 slate, threatened an upset when their scored four runs at the bottom of the sixth to grab the lead, 5-4. However, a John Paul Lizama run at the top of the seventh off a Joe Lizama single tied the game and Ur Balls forced an eighth inning after shutting out Lancheros at the bottom of the seventh.

At the top of the eighth, Giovanni Ayuyu and John Paul Lizama hit a one-run triple each, Mike Taitano had a sacrifice fly, and Oliver Secharmidal scored on a fielder's choice to put Ur Balls back on top. Ur Balls preserved the win when pitcher Ray Aldan struck out leadoff batter Leonard Camacho and the next two Lancheros batters were beaten to first base.

Chura 21, 6 Pack 1

Chura had an easier job in the first game, whipping 6 Pack, 21-1.

Second baseman Stanly Laniyo was 4-for-4 at the plate, hit two homers, and scored seven RBIs to lead Chura to an 11-3 record. Starting pitcher Mel Sakisat added four RBIs, built on a 3-for-4 performance at bat.

Chura started slow scoring only one run in the first inning, but picked up the scoring in the last three innings to wrap up the game early.

6 Pack prevented a shutout after center fielder Danny Repeki blasted a solo homer at the bottom of the fourth inning.

SaiPal 15, Hitz 11

In the second close game of the night, SaiPal edged Hitz, 15-11.

Gloyd Martin had a grand slam at the top of the first inning to give SaiPal early control of the game, added six more in the second inning and led, 12-6, after six complete innings.

A five-run bottom of the sixth, highlighted by a Kyle Kaipat grand slam sparked a Hitz comeback, but the team fell short in the last inning when the best it could do was reach second base.

SaiPal added two more runs at the top of the seventh inning for more cushion.

Voyagers take early lead

Jonny's/IT&E Voyagers picked up where it left off, taking the lead in the 2010 SBA Summer/Fall Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after two weeks of competition at various bars on Saipan.

The Voyagers, the 2009 Winter/Spring Budweiser Open 8-Ball League champions, topped USSP Fotten Palau in Week 1, 7-0, and then defeated 10/10 Restaurant Bud Brothers in Week 2, 5-2, for the league's best record of 12-2.

The Voyagers are on top of the Agingan division, besting four other teams—Pirates Huwa (9-5), Docomo Hustlers (9-5), 10/10 Restaurant Home Boys (6-8), and 10/10 Restaurant Bud Brothers (6-8).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Johnny's/IT&E Voyagers' Luis Fajardo in action during their game against 10/10 Restaurant Bud Brothers in Week 2 of SBA's 8-ball open.

Pirates Huwa also won in Week 2, downing USSP Watever, 6-1, while the Docomo Hustlers were only the third team in Agingan division to prevail in Week 2. The Hustlers slipped past 10/10 Restaurant Home Boys, 4-3.

In the Obyan division, Team Pirates enjoy the top view with their 9-5 slate, following a 4-3 triumph over USSP Fotten Palau.

VFW Shark Attack is in second place with its 8-6 slate, followed by VFW Sentinel (5-9), USSP Watever (3-11), and USSP Fotten Palau (3-11). VFW Shark Attack improved its record after nipping VFW Sentinel in Week 2, 4-3.

All 10 teams in the league will play in a two-round robin tournament, but each division will have a separate champion at the end of the season. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

SAKOVICH

From Page 36

and also in open waters," the 39-year-old Sakovich said.

From the kidney-shaped pool, Sakovich went on to win medals for the CNMI in the South Pacific Games, be part of the University of Florida swim team, compete in the Olympics, and now coach Bolles High School swimming team in Jacksonville, Florida.

"I know it is hard for an athlete from the Pacific to excel with limited facilities and opportunities, but if you really put your heart and mind into something, like swimming in college or competing off-island, you can do it. Train hard, listen to your coach, grab every opportunity that comes your way, and continue to seek improvement," Sakovich said.

Sakovich started a series of clinics for SSC swimmers on Monday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. In the clinic, he thought SSC swimmers techniques not read in books. He also shared warm-up and cool-off drills, which were new to SSC swimmers.

"This is great and fun to do," said Kento Akimaru, who teamed up with Andrew Johnson in doing warm-up and cool-off drills out of the water.

Other SSC swimmers who joined the clinic were Grace Kimball, Amanda Johnson, Junior Pamaran, Lester Lapuz, Michael Moran, Bryce Daly, Taiga Sato, Michael and Kenna Villagomez and Victoria Chentsova. SSC coach Mike Villagomez and assistant coach Lisa Kimball were there too to listen to Sakovich's tips.

"I have been fortunate to take part in many of Jon's clinics this week as a coach and as a swimmer and have been very impressed with what he has brought to us. He is a professional and his clinics have shown that. He has brought his many resources and ideas as well as his passion for swimming to us and to those have been and will continue to be a great encouragement to us long after he returns home," Kimball said.

TRIATHLETES

From Page 36

completing the 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike leg, and 15-km run part in three hours, 39 minutes, and 49 seconds. The Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager was also the first finisher among all Saipan male triathletes and 23rd overall, clocking in at 33:12 in the swim leg, 1:45:44 in the bike portion, and 1:17:57 in the run part.

Mancao was 27th overall and second among Saipan's male triathletes posting 39:47 in the swim, 1:47:09 in the bike, and 1:15:03 in the run for a total time of 3:44:37. Mancao improved significantly in the bike leg, as he is now training under Guam-based rider Jazy Garcia.

"Though I am in Guam and will not be able to join the rest of the team on Saipan in case I am selected, I will continue to train with the help of Jazy," Mancao said before the Tagaman race.

Butch Sublemente was the third finisher among Saipan's male triathletes, but could not make it to this year's Micronesian Games due to financial constraints, giving the third slot to Tenorio.

Tenorio was the fifth finisher among Saipan bets and 45th overall, one notch behind Tyce Mister, who was not on the list of the nine triathletes who tried out for Micro Games slots. Tenorio's total time was 3:55:18, timing in at 35:15 in the swim race, 1:57:36 in the bike leg, and 1:19:24 in the run part.

Manglona was seventh among the CNMI's bets and 50th overall, posting 42:24 in the swim leg, 2:04:26 in the bike race, and 1:16:53 in the run portion for a total time of 4:09:18.

SASC has yet to name the second and last alternate, but if the Tagaman time will be the basis for selection, Roland Villaria (4:19:41) has the edge over Manny Sitchon (4:33:58) and Brad Ruzsala (4:38:09).

In the women's division, Mieko Carey had already secured the lone slot.

In the 2006 Micro Games, the CNMI won silver medals in the men's individual division and team event. In the women's individual division, the CNMI took a bronze medal. The CNMI Team was composed of Natasha Good, Dirk Sharer, Sublemente, Tyce, and Tenorio.

MOBIL

From Page 36

Ruluked was fouled and went 1-for-1 to peg the final count.

Estolas scored 44 points for Mobil, which has yet to lose in more than weeks. It started its winning run against Aqua on March 17, 84-81 and then topped Pepsi last week, 104-99. Mobil's last defeat was at the hands of McGraw-Hill, 72-85, on March 13.

After stunning Fiesta last week, 87-76, Bank of Guam made it back-to-back after demolishing Cellular Pro.

BoG led from start to finish after getting another good offensive game from Charlie Peters. Peters, who scored 23 points against Fiesta, knocked down eight early points, as he and Randy Pelisamen lifted Bank of Guam to a 28-19 win at the end of the first period.

Bank of Guam then brought the lead to double digits in the ensuing quarters with Bobby Coldeen, Jeff Quitugua, and Dexter Mendiola joining the scoring spree.

First Game

Bank of Guam 99 – Pelisamen 21, Quitugua 19, Peters 16, Coldeen 15, Mendiola 11, G. Palacios 8, Taisacan 5, D. Palacios 4.

Cellular Pro 63 – Hernandez 23, Dulfo 14, Rotap 9, G. Loste 6, Mongami 4, Guevarra 4, Manuel 3.

Scoring by quarters: 28-19, 48-34, 48-49, 99-63.

Second Game

Mobil 107 – Estolas 44, Manalo 16, Ruluked 11, Ajoste 10, Jose 9, Galzote 6, Torres 2, Deocares 2, Demapan 2, Rejano 2.

Shirley's 103 – Peredo 26, Opone 22, Guiab 21, Sedillo 13, Nicdao 10, Laxa 7, Licop 4.

Scoring by quarters: 33-26, 60-47, 85-75, 107-103.

A DAY

From Page 36

He walked across Beach Road to watch Little League Baseball played on two fields, evaluating talent while chatting up the coaches and spectators.

The sportscaster went to the gym to see youth basketball teams from Osaka, Japan taking on Saipan boys and girls in an international goodwill tournament.

Robert got home just in time to see a fantastic finish in the college basketball tournament on channel 42. He checked the Internet and saw that his NBA fantasy team was still in first place.

After finishing off a lunch of yellow fin sashimi, sautéed bok choy with sea salt and garlic, rice, and tangerines, he headed up the mountain over to Capitol Hill ballfield to see Palau, Guam, and Saipan play softball, as if they needed an excuse to drink beer.

From there he went to the student's Parade of Books, as if he needed an excuse to get away from sports for awhile.

But for not long as he watched for the first time in seven years rugby played on Saipan. Kagman High Ayuyu was making their debut against a select Guam high school all-star team. He thought to himself, "If I was that age, I'd be playing, too."

With the sun lowering over the Philippine Sea, Robert and his wife took Subway sandwiches, a big bag of Lay's classic potato chips and ice-cold libations to the beach next to the tranquil opal lagoon where they saw an awe-inspiring sunset, including the spotting of his 200th some green flash.

By the time they got to Marpi to watch Japanese pro wrestling, the lights shined brightly down on Kan Pacific field. Akebono, the Hawaiian Chad Rowan and former Sumo champion, was who they wanted to see.

After the last pin, they went to party at the Saipan World Resort for the Rotary Club's Las Vegas night, hobnobbing with the island's movers and shakers.

When Robert didn't win any raffle prizes, it ruined his day.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	46	25	.648	–
Toronto	35	35	.500	10 1/2
New York	26	45	.366	20
Philadelphia	25	47	.347	21 1/2
New Jersey	8	63	.113	38

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	50	22	.694	–
x-Atlanta	46	25	.648	3 1/2
Charlotte	37	34	.521	12 1/2
Miami	37	34	.521	12 1/2
Washington	21	49	.300	28

Central Division

y-Cleveland	57	15	.792	–
Milwaukee	39	31	.557	17
Chicago	33	37	.471	23
Indiana	26	46	.361	31
Detroit	23	48	.324	33 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	47	24	.662	–
San Antonio	42	28	.600	4 1/2
Memphis	38	34	.528	9 1/2
Houston	36	34	.514	10 1/2
New Orleans	34	39	.466	14

Northwest Division

Denver	47	25	.653	–
Utah	47	25	.653	–
Oklahoma City	43	27	.614	3
Portland	42	29	.592	4 1/2
Minnesota	14	58	.194	33

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	53	18	.746	–
Phoenix	45	26	.634	8
L.A. Clippers	26	45	.366	27
Sacramento	24	48	.333	29 1/2
Golden State	20	51	.282	33

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Atlanta 86, Orlando 84
Boston 113, Denver 99
Charlotte 108, Minnesota 95
Indiana 99, Washington 82
Utah 113, Toronto 87
New Jersey 93, Sacramento 79
Philadelphia 101, Milwaukee 86
Cleveland 105, New Orleans 92
Oklahoma City 122, Houston 104
L.A. Lakers 92, San Antonio 83
Golden State 128, Memphis 110

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	7	1
World Resort	7	1
Aqua Resort	6	2
Pacific Islands Club	5	2
Fiesta Resort	5	3
Mobil	5	3
Shirley's	4	4
AON/NJ Plus	4	3
TBK	4	3
Bank of Guam	3	4
McGraw-Hill	2	4
Pepsi	2	4
Docomo/SGH	0	6
Hard Rock	0	6
Cell Pro	0	8

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	14	0
Man Amigos	14	1
Island Rebels	11	2
Chura	11	3
SaiPal	11	3
San Roque	9	4
Ur Balls	10	5
Freedom Air Flyers	8	5
Calikano-Falcons	8	7
X-Terminators	8	7
Hitz	7	7
6-Pack	7	7
Go For Broke	5	9
Blazers	5	10
Berdax	4	9
Lancheros	3	10
Red Eye	3	11
G-Ballers	3	11
Ramblers	3	11
Team Familia	1	11
Team Fuegu	1	13

NMA to start Micro Games trials tomorrow

PIC Tennis Championships starts this weekend

Pacific Islands Club Saipan will host the 10th Annual PIC Tennis Championships this coming couple of weekends at the tennis courts of the San Antonio hotel.

The first weekend—March 26-28—will consist of men's, women's, mixed doubles, and juniors singles.

The second weekend—April 2-4—will feature men's singles, women's singles, and juniors doubles.

The singles categories consists of men's open, men's 4.0, men's 3.0, women's open, women's 3.0, boys' 18-under, boys' 14-under, boys' 10-under, girls' 18-under, girls' 14-under, and girls' 10-under.

The doubles categories, meanwhile, are men's open, men's 4.0, and men's 3.0, women's open, women's 3.0, boys' 14-under, boys' 10-under, girls' 14-under, girls' 10-under, mixed open, and mixed 3.0.

The singles and doubles open divisions are guaranteed cash prizes for the winner and runner-up.

All other winners and finalists will receive prizes donated from the tournament sponsors. PIC Saipan, Pacific Trading Co. including Gatorade and Pepsi, Hyatt Regency Hotel, and the Boutiki Store are on board as tournament sponsors.

The entry fee is $15 for single events and $20 per team for the doubles events. All participants will be provided with waterpark passes to help them relax between matches.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kirk Schuler in action during last year's PIC netfest at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

Tournament entry forms can be found at the PIC Information Desk, Tennis Center, and American Memorial Park tennis courts from 9am to 6pm daily.

Payments should be turned into the PIC Information Desk (9am 6pm daily). The entry deadline for the first weekend was last March 19, while the entry deadline for the second weekend is March 26 by 5pm.

For more information, contact Dennis Tababa at 237-5173 or e-mail at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com.

"The tournament is fast approaching, so if you want to win your share of the cash and other great prizes, enter today," sad Tababa. ***(PR)***

Soriano tops St. Paddy's tourney at USSP

Jerry Soriano took first place in last week's St. Patrick's Day Tournament held at the USS Peleliu Club.

Mae Rengiil finished second and won $50, while Rolly Villanueva was third. Taylor Watanabe, Rick Rengiil, Larry Briones, Ron Chisato, and Patrick Taitano had also qualified by winning preliminary tournaments. Taitano didn't compete due to a previous commitment. Watanabe also won the first champions tournament on Valentine's Day.

USSP Club started its third round of no-entry-fee 8-ball tournaments last night, with the winner qualifying for a spot in the $100 Mother's Day final.

Winners of the free weekly Thursday and Sunday tournaments will compete in the May 9 championship for the $100 first prize, trophies courtesy of Pacific Amusement and in-house giveaways.

Sign-up starts at 7:30pm. The tournaments are double-elimination, following Billard Congress of America rules.

"We had people dropping by last Thursday and Sunday," said USSP Club owner Ken Phillips."So we figured we'd better start another round. We're also following the suggestions of some customers and giving points for second and third place finishes. The three non-champions with the most points will join the 13 tournament winners to make a 16-player bracket in the Mother's Day final."

Beginning next Thursday, previous winners will face off before the qualifying tournament in a best-of-five contest for USSP T-shirts.

For more information, contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jerry Soriano, center, won the USS Peleliu Club's St. Patrick's Day Tournament held last March 27 at the Garapan sports club and watering hole. Also in photo are runners-up Rolly Villanueva, left, and Mae Rengiil.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will begin its series of qualifiers for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau tomorrow at the Oleai Sports Complex Field track and field facility.

The first of a series of qualifiers will have nine events and will start at 5pm. Events lined up for the first of the four qualifiers are long jump for both men's and women's, shotput, 1,500m run, javelin throw, 100m run, 100m hurdles (for women's only), 110m hurdles (for men's only), 5,000m run, and 4x100m relays.

Interested athletes must meet the Micro Games qualifying times to make the CNMI Team that will compete in Palau from Aug. 1 to 10 this year.

For the long jump, the qualifying times are 5.60m (men's) and 4.20m (women's). The remaining qualifying standards are as follows: 10.50m and 9.00m (for shotput men's and women's); 4:50 and 5:55 (1,500m men's and women's); 42.00m and 28.00m (javelin men's and women's); 11.70 and 14 seconds (100m men's and women's); 18 seconds (men's 110m hurdles); 19 seconds (women's hurdles); and 19:00 and 22:25 (5,000m men's and women's).

The standard suggested times/records are based on results of the 2006 Micronesian Games and these are listed in the Games manual. According to NMA, these standards are in no way mean to exclude athletes. They are a genuine attempt to ensure that athletes selected are deserving and capable of competing for the CNMI.

The Palau Organizing Committee has told the CNMI it can bring as much as 25 participants in various athletic events to the Micro Games. Other events in the athletics competition are 200m, 400m, 800m, and 10,000m races, half marathon, 400m hurdles, 4x400m relay, triple jump, hammer throw, high jump, and discuss throw.

After meeting the qualifying times, there are other requirements that should be followed. Residency requirement for non-CNMI descent athlete is seven years. If athletes are from other Micronesian nation/island, but are representing the CNMI, residency requirement is three years.

Athletes making the grade and the residency requirement then must train with NMA, posting at least 90 percent of attendance in the series of training sessions. Distance runners can train by themselves, but a training log will be required.

The last three qualifiers are set for April 16 and 30 and during the National Championship, which will run from May 7 to 9.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Clayton Kenty prepares to throw the discus during last year's All Schools qualifier at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility. Tomorrow, NMA will start its 2010 Micronesian Games trials.

Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament set this weekend

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will host the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament set for today and tomorrow at the Marianas High School and Gilbert C. Ada gymnasiums.

The invitational will see the return of Osaka, Japan-based Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club to the CNMI.

The tournament will also have four girls' 15-and-under and four boys' 17-and-under basketball teams from Saipan.

Competing in the girls' 15-and-under are 2010 MISO junior varsity girls basketball league champions Kagman High School, MISO All-Stars, and COPSSA All-Stars, while tournament defending champions Saipan Southern High School, MISO All-Stars, and COPSSA All-Stars will take part in the boys' 17-and-under division.

BANMI said the tournament is being hosted in honor of the Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club in the name of basketball goodwill and BANMI's continued development efforts.

This year the Settsu Red Impulse teams will come full force with both girls and boys squads entered in the cultural-sports exchange event.

In fact, the club's girls team are the defending champions, while the visitors' boys team lost a heartbreaker to the MHS in the semis. The Dolphins in turn lost the championship against the Manta Rays.

The Settsu Red Impulse coaches have vowed to uphold the Japanese "yamato daimashi" and give the Manta Rays a battle to the end for the perpetual champions cup.

BANMI is inviting parents, family members, and basketball enthusiasts to come and watch the event that will feature the best CNMI junior players compete against returning friends from Japan. ***(BANMI)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club player goes up against a Marianas High School Dolphins player in last year's 2009 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament at the MHS Gymnasium.

Smith dunk at buzzer leads Hawks past Magic

PAGE 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sakovich: Keep your passion for swimming

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Olympian Jon Sakovich completed his four-day swim clinic for Saipan Swim Club yesterday and would want to leave this important message to CNMI swimmers: Never lose passion for swimming.

"You may have an inadequate facility, part-time coach, limited competition, but don't let these prevent you from going to the pools and improving yourself. Keep that passion, passion in swimming and aiming to become better each day, as this will open doors of opportunity for you in the future," Sakovich said.

The 1998 Seoul Olympics participant used himself as an example of keeping that passion to achieve greater goals.

"Growing up on Saipan, we have no 25-meter or 50-meter pool. I swam in a kidney-shaped pool next to where Hyatt Regency Saipan was for 10 years

See SAKOVICH on Page 34

Olympian Jon Sakovich demonstrates a stretching drill during a clinic with Saipan Swim Club on Wednesday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil, Bank of Guam on a roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil went steady from the foul line in the stretch to escape with a 107-103 victory over host Shirley's during the second game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

A four-point win gave Mobil its third straight victory and five in eight games, while Shirley's dropped to an even 4-4 slate.

In the first match, Bank of Guam is also on a streak, cruising to back-to-back wins after clobbering Cellular Pro, 99-63. Cellular Pro absorbed its eighth loss in as many matches.

Mobil had a jackrabbit start, exploding for 33 points in the first period and padded its lead to as high as 14 in the second canto before Shirley's came back in the payoff quarter.

Shirley's came back sans gunner Errol Peredo and even tied the game, 97-all, after Fradel Sedillo's pair of free throws. Peredo drew his second technical foul due to excessive complaining in the closing minutes of the third period and was thrown out of the game.

However, Shirley's fell short in its bid to steal the game when Mobil preserved the win from the foul line.

After Sedillo forced a deadlock, Jun Estolas made two free throws and went on to nail five more in his last six trips from the stripe in the remaining one minute of the match to secure the victory.

Shirley's kept fighting, cutting the lead to a deuce several times behind Sedillo, Laxa, and William Opone's baskets. However Mobil's steady hands from the foul line did the trick for the team with J.P. Jose going 2-for-2 and Gyles Ruluked splitting his charities.

Shirley's last ditch effort to recover suffered a blow in the last 18 seconds of the game with Mobil ahead, 106-103, when Opone missed three free throws. He muffed the first charity, but was given two more chances when Estolas was called for a violation for shouting while Opone was taking the free shot.

After Opone missed his third try,

See MOBIL on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Jun Estolas, center, is fouled by Shirley's William Opone during their game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

4 triathletes make grade for Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four male triathletes made the grade for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau after competing in the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday.

Earning slots on the CNMI Triathlon Team to the quadrennial meet were Kieran Daly, Matthew Mancao, and Lewie Tenorio. Tinian's Joshua Manglona is one of the two alternates.

Saipan Adventure Sports Club, which is in charge of forming the triathlon team that will represent the Commonwealth to the Micro Games, used Tagaman as qualifier to determine the composition of the squad. Before Tagaman, nine male triathletes had expressed their interests in competing for slots on the team. Only three male and two alternates, will be chosen, thus a qualifier was needed to select winners of the slots.

SASC then decided the first three among the nine hopefuls to finish the Tagaman will earn spots on the team and the next two will be named alternates

Daly was the first one to book a slot,

See TRIATHLETES on Page 34

Mancao

Daly

Tenorio

Manglona

A day in the life

Saturday, March 27, 2010, Robert awoke before sunrise. He was used to it. The previous three Saturdays he had forsaken Friday night reveling to get up early for the Saipan Marathon, XTERRA Saipan Championship, and Tagaman Triathlon. This time no one was running. It was the Red Cross Walkathon.

After a breakfast of coffee and juicy home-picked tangerines, he got into his Rav4, opened the sunroof and headed down the mountain to Civic Center beach listening to '60s Australian surf music.

In the past Robert would cheerfully do the 10K. But this year with sore bones he took Dirty Harry's advice: "A man has to know his limitations." A 5-kilometer stroll on the beach pathway would have to suffice. As for the longer walk, he borrowed a line from Cubs fans, "Wait 'till next year!"

After the early morning exercise, he sauntered over to the Sabalu market and bought fresh papaya, tomatoes, kang kung, bok choy, cucumbers, and shrimp. As always, his wife asked for young coconut juice.

See A DAY on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2